

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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Carson Palmer

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THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2004

Free in Deployed Areas

# Suicide blast kills 68 at Iraqi police station

Deadliest attack since transfer of power kills only Iraqis Page 3



The charred remains of a bus sit at the site of a suicide car bombing Wednesday in Baqouba, Iraq, northeast of Baghdad. The bomb exploded on a busy boulevard outside a police recruiting center and wrecked nearby shops. Iraqi officials have warned attacks could intensify as the country tries to move forward.

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Spacecraft prize:** The SpaceShipOne craft that cracked the barrier to manned commercial space flight will be launched in September in a bid to win the \$10 million Ansari X Prize, pioneering aviation designer Burt Rutan announced Tuesday.

The prize is being offered for the first privately developed, three-seat spacecraft to soar beyond an altitude of 62 miles and repeat the feat within two weeks.

SpaceShipOne flew to that altitude in a test flight last month from Mojave, Calif. Rutan said he plans a qualifying launch on Sept. 29 following by the second flight as early as Oct. 4.

A total of 26 teams in seven countries are developing spacecraft to compete for the X Prize, which is sponsored by the privately funded X Prize Foundation in St. Louis.

**Laci Peterson trial:** Jurors in the Scott Peterson murder trial inspected the defendant's small aluminum fishing boat, then heard an expert testify that a lifeless body could have been thrown overboard.

The testimony Tuesday was intended by prosecutors to counter claims by the defense that Peterson could not have saved the 153-pound body of his eight-month-pregnant wife, Laci, into San Francisco Bay without the boat tipping over.

Prosecutors allege Peterson killed his wife in their Modesto home, drove to the bay with the body in a tool box, ferried it onto the open water and dumped it.

**Courtney Love's first trial:** Rock musician Courtney Love was sentenced in Los Angeles on Tuesday to 18 months in drug rehabilitation, closing one chapter in a troubled saga that began when she was accused of trying to break into her ex-boyfriend's home while high on cocaine.

Superior Court Judge Patricia M. Schneeg gave the rocker until Oct. 29 to enroll in a drug counseling program, which will require frequent drug testing. She will be permitted to travel, but will be barred from taking non-prescription drugs, drinking alcohol or being in places that serve alcohol.

"I have to stop drinking. That's funny," Love, 40, said outside court, firing up a cigarette. "I think I can do it."



Love

### World

**Philippines withdrawal from Iraq:** The Philippines angrily summoned the Australian ambassador Wednesday, saying it objected to criticism that a concession to Iraqi insurgents to save the life of a Filipino captive has encouraged terrorism.

Ambassador Ruth Pearce was called in after Australian Foreign Secretary Alexander Downer blamed the Philippines and Spain for a new threat against Australia by a purported al-Qaida affiliate.

Downer said terrorists had been energized by the Philippines' early withdrawal of troops from Iraq to save hostage Angelo del Cruz from being beheaded, and by Spain's pull out after the Madrid train bombings in March.

The United States also has criticized the troop withdrawals.



**Missing Utah woman:** Police with cadaver dogs searched fruitlessly in the early morning darkness Wednesday for clues to the whereabouts of a missing pregnant woman, while her family closed down a command post for volunteers. At a news conference Monday, above, a map of Salt Lake City was displayed showing most of the areas that have been searched for the whereabouts of Lori Hacking, 27. At rear, from left, are Douglas and Janet Hacking, parents of Lori's husband, Mark; and Thelma and Elrado Soares, Lori's parents. Lori Hacking was reported missing July 19.

**Bali bombings charges:** Indonesian police on Wednesday dropped plans to charge militant cleric Abu Bakar Bashir with involvement in the 2002 Bali bombings following a court ruling last week that curbed the use of a tough-anti-terror law.

Detective Chief Suyitno Landung, however, said officers still planned to charge Bashir with heading Jemaah Islamiyah, the al-Qaida-linked terror group blamed for the Bali bombings that killed 202 people.

It's unclear whether the decision will make it more difficult to secure a conviction against Bashir, who successfully beat terror charges last year. Foreign governments maintain he is a key Southeast Asian terrorist.

**Russian oil company woes:** Yukos warned Wednesday that it may have to shut down production within a few days as bailiffs continued their drive to collect on a massive back-tax claim against Russia's largest oil producer.

The warning, more dire than previous company statements, helped send shares in a new nosedive while crude oil futures briefly hit a record high, apparently driven in part by concern about supply interruptions from the company that produces 2 percent of the world's oil.

Russian media reports cited a letter sent by Yukos lawyers to Justice Minister Yuri Chaika regarding a bailiffs' order telling three Yukos production subsidiaries to cease all sales of company property.

**Japanese doomsday cult:** A court in Japan on Wednesday upheld death sentences for two ex-cult members convicted in a 1995 nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subways that killed 12 people and injured thousands. Four other former members arrested earlier this month for allegedly trying to kill Ja-

pan's national police chief were released.

The Tokyo High Court rejected the appeals of Toru Toyoda, 36, and Kenichi Hirose, 40, who were sentenced to death by hanging by a lower court in 2000, court spokesman Sadakazu Takagi said.

The two were among five Aum Shinrikyo members who released sarin gas on subway trains on March 20, 1995.

**Sudan sanctions:** Egypt said Wednesday it would try to prevent adoption of an American-drafted resolution threatening U.N. sanctions on Sudan, aiming to temper international pressure on its neighbor over bloodshed in its western provinces.

With talk of international sanctions and military intervention growing, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said Sudan needs more time to fulfill its promises to disarm militias and restore order in the Darfur region.

Visiting U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, standing at his side, said there wasn't much time to spare.

"These people are in desperate need," Powell said. "We should give the Sudanese government time to respond, but these people don't have much time."

**Iran's nuclear program:** Defying international concerns, Iran has resumed clandestine work linked to uranium enrichment, testing equipment and producing a gas that can be used to make nuclear warheads, diplomats said Wednesday.

The diplomats told The Associated Press that Tehran has restarted equipment used to make uranium hexafluoride gas, which, when injected into centrifuges and spun, can be enriched to a level high enough to make the weapons.

Photos and stories from wire reports

### Correction

An article in Wednesday's editions on the Longbows' arrival in Illesheim, Germany, incorrectly stated the location of Fort Hood, the temporary home of the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment during the past year. It is in Killeen, Texas, north of Austin.

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# Suicide car bombing kills 68 in Baqouba



An Iraqi stands near a vehicle charred after a deadly car bomb went off in Baqouba, Iraq, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, on Wednesday morning. Iraqis have expressed anger at killings that target fellow citizens.

## Attacks force emergency landings; at least five coalition troops killed

BY HADI AWAD  
The Associated Press

BAQOUBA, Iraq — A suicide car bomb exploded on a busy downtown boulevard in Baqouba on Wednesday, ripping through a commuter bus during morning rush hour, wrecking nearby shops and killing at least 68 Iraqis in one of the deadliest single insurgent attacks since the U.S. invasion.

Dozens of burned bodies were strewn in the street and piled on curbsides, and vehicles, fruit stalls and shops were a bloody tangle of twisted metal from the blast, which targeted Iraqis lined up outside a police recruiting station. Most of the victims were civilians or from among the hundreds of men waiting to join the force.

"These were all innocent Iraqis, there were no Americans," an angry man shouted, pounding his hands against his head in grief, as Iraqis tried to cover the dead with pieces of cardboard in the city, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad. Many Iraqis have been infuriated by heavy civilian deaths in attacks by guerrillas who claim to be fighting U.S. domination.

The 10:13 a.m. attack was the deadliest since Americans handed power to an Iraqi government June 28 and came three days ahead of a national conference aimed at creating an interim assembly — widely considered a vital step toward democracy. Iraqi officials have warned attacks could intensify as the country tries to move forward.

Elsewhere, U.S. and other coalition forces were caught in fierce gunbattles with militants in several areas, including a fight with

militants thought to have entered from neighboring Iran.

In Suwayriyah, southeast of the capital, Iraqi forces backed by U.S. and Ukrainian troops launched a raid hunting for militants who had crossed from the Iranian border, said Polish Maj. Krzysztof Plazuk, a coalition spokesman. The raid sparked a battle in which 35 guerrillas and seven Iraqi policemen were killed, 10 Iraqi police were wounded and 40 insurgents were captured.

In Anbar province west of Baghdad, insurgents killed two coalition troops and enemy fire forced two U.S. military aircraft to make emergency landings, the military said. A spokesman from U.S. military headquarters in Baghdad, speaking on condition of anonymity, said U.S. Marines clashed with insurgents in several areas of the province.

It was not immediately clear if the two troops died during the aerial landings. No details were provided on what type of aircraft that made the landings or where the clashes occurred.

Insurgents launched near simultaneous attacks on several U.S. bases in Ramadi, wounding 10 soldiers, the military said.

Two U.S. soldiers were killed in the past 24 hours. One was killed by a roadside bomb Wednesday in the town of Taji, about 12 miles north of the capital, the military said. Another American was killed by a bomb that struck his Humvee in Balad-Ruz late Tuesday, about 40 miles northwest of Baghdad, according to army spokesman Master Sgt. Robert Powell.

Associated Press writers Sameer Vachoud and Jamie Tarabay in Baghdad contributed to this report.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday 906 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 671 died as a result of hostile action and 235 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 60 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush de-

clared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 768 U.S. servicemembers have died — 562 as a result of hostile action and 206 of nonhostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by the military:  
■ No new deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the U.S. military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Vincent M. Sullivan, 23, Chatham, N.J., killed Friday in fighting in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

## Doctors Without Borders pulling out of Afghanistan

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The relief agency Medecins Sans Frontieres said Wednesday it was pulling out of Afghanistan, discouraged by a fruitless investigation into the slayings of five of its workers and fearful of new attacks as a bombing targeting election workers left at least two dead.

The Nobel prize-winning group's decision to withdraw was the most dramatic example yet of how deteriorating security has crippled the delivery of badly needed aid and reconstruction in Afghanistan since the Taliban regime was ousted more than two years ago. MSF had already suspended most of its work after the June killings and recalled all foreign staff to Kabul, the capital.

"Today's context is rendering independent humanitarian aid for the Afghan people all but impossible," the international group said in a statement.

In the latest violence, a bomb exploded Wednesday in the town of Andar, 90 miles southwest of the capital, as Afghans lined

up at a mosque to register for ID cards for voting in Oct. 9 presidential elections.

U.N. and Afghan officials said at least two people were killed, including an Afghan member of the electoral board, and several others were injured.

Anti-government militants are blamed for many of those attacks and the deaths of more than 30 aid workers since March 2003, making the south and east virtually off-limits. The assault on the MSF workers in northwestern Badghis, the deadliest yet on an international relief agency, raised fears that the north was also becoming too dangerous.

Medecins Sans Frontieres, or Doctors Without Borders, cited three main reasons for its pullout: dangers on the ground, dismay that the investigation into the June killings produced no results, and what it called the U.S. military's use of humanitarian aid "for political and military motives."

U.S. and NATO troops run several so-called Provincial Reconstruction Teams across the country, in which soldiers provide health care, dig wells and perform other work.



Operational director of Medecins Sans Frontieres Kenny Gluck speaks about the relief agency's decision Wednesday to leave Afghanistan, partly due to security concerns.

The U.S. military rejected the suggestion that its aid projects were endangering civilian lives.

"We don't put anyone in danger," spokesman Maj. Jon Siepmann said.

He said many aid groups were working effectively in areas where American troops also operated.

In the June 2 killings of its workers, two

men on a motorcycle stopped a clearly marked MSF vehicle on a rural road in northwestern Badghis province. The three Europeans and two Afghans inside were shot dead.

A purported Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility and accused the victims of working for American interests — a shock to MSF, which relies on neutrality to protect workers who venture into war zones.

# Captain accused of murder called rising star

## Hanau Article 32 hearing adjourned until September after short session on Iraqi's death

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

HANAU, Germany — A former commander of an Army captain accused of murdering an Iraqi described the young officer as trustworthy, disciplined, aggressive and independent.

Capt. Rogelio M. Maynulet's "maturity was well above his peers," said Col. Michael Ryan, director of the Joint Advance Warfighting Program, during an Article 32 hearing in Hanau.

The current situation aside, Ryan said Maynulet is "an exceptional officer," one destined to become "easily a brigade commander or higher."

But the current situation is very much in play.

The Army has charged the 29-year-old Maynulet with murder and dereliction of duty in the May 21 death of an Iraqi man near Kufa, south of Baghdad.

Wednesday's session marked the resumption of a process that started a month ago in Baghdad. The Article 32 hearing, the equivalent of a civilian grand jury session, didn't last long. After about a half hour, the session was adjourned until September. Attorneys said many of the key witnesses are 1st Armored Division troops on extended leave following their lengthy deployment to Iraq.

Ryan was the only person who gave testimony Wednesday. He spoke by telephone from his office near Washington, D.C.

The colonel first met Maynulet several years ago while the two were assigned to Fort Hood, Texas. Ryan was a battalion commander; Maynulet was a competent lieutenant who was eager to learn and prove himself, Ryan said. That chance came when their unit deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1998.

Ryan said Maynulet distinguished himself above the rest, leading the colonel to characterize the captain at Wednesday's hearing as a rising star.

The two met three times during Maynulet's deployment to Iraq. By then a company commander, Maynulet seemed to be proving everybody right.

On May 21, during an armed engagement

near Kufa, Maynulet allegedly shot and killed an Iraqi man whose car had been shot up. Some troops have called it murder. Others view it as a mercy killing.

For now, the circumstances surrounding the case are murky.

Prosecutors are depicting Maynulet as a company commander who worked outside the rules of engagement for U.S. and coalition forces.

After Wednesday's session, which also dealt with public disclosure of earlier testimony and potential expert witnesses, Maynulet declined to talk much about the case, referring reporters to an earlier interview in the Chicago Tribune in which he claimed "I was doing my job."

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Gen. John Abizaid



Askar Akayev

## Abizaid urges Islamic states to join coalition

BY KADYR TOKTOGULOV

The Associated Press

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan — The top U.S. commander in the Middle East said Wednesday the United States would welcome other nations, especially Islamic countries, sending troops to Iraq.

However, Gen. John Abizaid, head of U.S. Central Command, refused to say if he had asked Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev to contribute troops during a meeting in the capital Bishkek. Abizaid, who is on a tour of former Soviet Central Asia, arrived here from Uzbekistan, and is also to travel to Tajikistan. He refused to discuss specific troop requests to any country.

"We would very much welcome inclusion of other nations that want to face the terrorist threat," Abizaid told The Associated Press in an interview. "We welcome building a strong coalition there, especially Islamic states would be very welcome."

Of the majority Islamic countries of Central Asia, only Kazakhstan has sent military personnel to Iraq — a contingent of 27 combat engineers.

Both Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have become key allies of the United States in the anti-terror campaign in neighboring Afghanistan, offering bases for coalition troops.

Abizaid also Wednesday refused to rule out possible greater military cooperation with Russia in Central Asia. Russia also opened a new air base in Kyrgyzstan last year in an apparent response to the bolstered U.S. military presence in the region, which it considers its strategic backyard.

"It's possible that in the future that there could be higher level cooperation between us here in Central Asia," Abizaid said.

The general also said he supported joint military exercises to be held in August in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan between four Soviet republics led by Russia.

"I am very much in favor of regional action to increase security and the inclusion of Russia in that type of activity is even more welcome," Abizaid said.

Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Russian and Tajik forces are preparing for large military exercises in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to practice their joint capability to fight against possible incursions by terrorist groups. In 1999 and 2000, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan saw incursions by the al-Qaida-linked Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, which also fought the U.S.-backed northern alliance in Afghanistan.

## 3 soldiers charged in Iraqi drowning case may blame anti-malaria drug

BY ROBERT WELLER

The Associated Press

DENVER — Defense attorneys for three U.S. soldiers charged with shoving two Iraqi civilians into the Tigris River where one of them drowned may argue that an anti-malaria drug triggered an uncontrollable rage, a military health expert said Tuesday.

Steve Robinson of the National Gulf War Research Center said he has been told by an attorney for one of the soldiers that they may be questioned about the drug, Lariam, during a hearing scheduled to begin Wednesday at nearby Fort Carson.

The hearing will determine whether the soldiers will be court-martialed.

Sgt. 1st Class Tracy E. Perkins, 33, 1st Lt. Jack M. Saville, 24 and Sgt. Reggie Martinez, 24, are charged with involuntary manslaughter in the drowning death in the city of Samarra, near Baghdad, on Jan. 3. Spc. Terry Bowman, 21, is charged with assault for allegedly pushing a second man into the river with him. That man survived.

The hearing was scheduled for Perkins, Martinez and Bowman.

The anti-malaria drug given to U.S. military personnel who went to Iraq has already figured in another high-profile Army disciplinary case. A charge of cowardice was dropped against a Special Forces interrogator who said he suffered physical and psychological problems after taking Lariam. The soldiers are assigned to Fort Carson's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, which has returned to Fort Carson. The brigade is part of the 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas.

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# Army trains Iraqis about surgical dentistry

## Three-day session offers instruction on dental implants

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

**B**AGHDAD — Getting Iraqi dentistry professors involved in joint training with U.S. Army dentists wasn't exactly like pulling teeth.

In fact, the Iraqi dentists, from the University of Baghdad Dental School, were eager to attend a symposium in April and dental implant surgical training sessions Sunday through Tuesday.

The three-day surgical sessions were joint training for the Americans and Iraqis, as the procedure is in the trial stage for Army doctors to see if it is feasible for an operational theater such as Iraq, according to Lt. Col. James Honey, commander of 257th Medical Company (Dental Services) in Baghdad. Outside of combat zones, however, the dental implants are a common procedure with a 98 percent success rate, Honey added.

"The primary purpose of [the surgical sessions] is educational exchange between Army dentists and Iraqi dentists," Honey said. "There is an added benefit of conducting the trial on selected U.S. soldiers."

Normally, a soldier would wait until the deployment ended to undergo the procedure, which involves extracting a damaged



PHOTOS BY RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

Iraqi dentists from the University of Baghdad Dental School watch Lt. Col. Robert Herold, center, a periodontist with the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, perform a tooth extraction on Spc. Lahendra McCray on Tuesday. Assisting is Spc. Alicia Hernandez, right.

tooth, placing a titanium implant in the bone of the jaw, and then applying a temporary crown, Honey said. Otherwise, he said, the tooth would have to be pulled, and there would be no viable bone or

tissue in the area to conduct the implant later.

"We have had an implant system [at the university] for the past six or seven years," said Amer Khamas, a prosthodontist

from the school. "This is a different type of implant system. It is good for us to be exposed to new ideas and procedures."

Lt. Col. Robert Herold, a periodontist, extracted a broken tooth from Spc. Lahendra McCray on Tuesday, and prosthodontist Maj. Gloria Torres created a temporary crown for the patient.

The temporary crown is good for about one year, and McCray can get a permanent one when she gets back to Fort Hood, Texas, early next year, Torres said.

Honey said that McCray would not have experienced pain, and that she could have waited to have the procedure done until she

**"We have had an implant system [at the university] for the past six or seven years. This is a different type of implant system. It is good for us to be exposed to new ideas and procedures."**

Amer Khamas

prosthodontist,  
University of Baghdad  
Dental School

returned to the States.

About 60 faculty members and students from the university attended the symposium in April and seven dentists were invited to attend the surgical demonstrations, Honey said.

The three-day dental implant sessions included one day of lecture, where doctors presented the case studies of the two patients who would undergo the procedure, Honey said.

Monday and Tuesday were practical courses in which the Iraqis observed the procedure on two patients, he said.

"They have said they really enjoyed the chance to see how we do the procedures," Honey said, adding that Khamas was giving a slide presentation later Tuesday on the Iraqis' procedures for facial prosthetics.

"This has exceeded our expectations," Honey said.

"It is what we were hoping to accomplish with the educational exchange with Iraqi dentists."

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Stars and Stripes

## Messages of Support

★ Just a short note to show my support for the GREAT JOB you are all doing in the Mid-East where ever you are.

We are flying our FLAG every day to show our support. You are all in our thoughts and prayers daily. Best wishes and return home safe and soon. Don

★ HELLO MY DEAR, JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT I LOVE YOU, AND I WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU HERE WITH ALL MY LOVE, I'M FINE AND STRONG WAITING FOR YOU. KISSES HONEY. YOUR GIRLFRIEND, LIZ

★ D. Stanley: Hey baby, just wanted to say we love and miss you. Stay safe and hurry home to us. Jennifer, Tristan, Erica and Conner

★ Dear heroes, Thank you all for protecting us. It is a shame that there are Americans that do not show their support. Please know that there are more of us supporting and praying for all of you than those

that do not. Every single one of you are so very brave and should be honored for it. If any of you ever feel discouraged or sad please remember that there are people back home in the USA that love and support you. Hopefully that will bring a smile to your face. God bless.

★ To J. Holt: Darling I just want to let you know how proud I am of you. My love for you grows every day that we are apart. Stay strong and keep your head up. You are my hero. I love you. Natalie

★ Our humblest thanks to you for what you are doing. Don't worry about the vocal minority the liberal media shows on TV. There are MILLIONS of us who unshakably SUPPORT you and are praying for your victory!

★ Hope you get this. No one seems to have your address. Hear you have a beautiful baby girl. Thanks for defending us. My thoughts are with you and your comrades. Barbara brackett (David and Russell's mom)



An image on a television, from a camera attached to the surgeon's lamp, shows Lt. Col. Robert Herold extracting a tooth from Spc. Lahendra McCray.

# Official: U.S. aircraft attacked almost daily

## DOD calls threats in Iraq 'significant'

By LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Insurgents are continuing to fire on U.S. military aircraft entering and leaving Iraq on almost a daily basis, though only two military and one commercial aircraft have been hit since President Bush announced the end of major combat operations in Iraq on May 1, 2003, according to the Defense Department's top transport official.

"As we fly around, we are repeatedly shot at, with manpads [man-portable air defense systems], small arms, and triple-A [anti-aircraft artillery]," Air Force Gen. John Handy, commander of the U.S. Transportation Command, told reporters at a Wednesday breakfast in Washington.

Based at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., TRANSCOM manages all of the U.S. military's sea and air transportation assets, as

well as overseeing commercial airlines and shipping companies that deliver military personnel and goods under contract with the U.S. government.

Handy said he receives reports whenever there is a suspected attack against a TRANSCOM aircraft, and "there's hardly a day that goes by when I don't have [such a report] waiting for me on my desk," Handy said.

In fact, "It's rare that I don't have one," he said. "The threat is out there ... the threat is a significant thing."

Almost all of the attacks — "probably right now, 90 to 95 percent" — are coming out of Iraq, with "very, very little [coming] out of Afghanistan," Handy said.

Three U.S. cargo planes have been hit in Iraq to date, all of them on take-off from Baghdad International Airport. No one was seriously injured or killed in the incidents, and all three planes managed to land safe-



Handy

ly. The first attack was Nov. 22, when a commercial cargo aircraft owned by DHL was hit by what was later determined to be a shoulder-fired SA-14 surface-to-air missile.

The incident prompted DHL to temporarily suspend flights into Iraq, but the company resumed

but the pilots were able to land the aircraft. It took TRANSCOM repair crews about 33 days to repair the C-17 and return it to the active fleet, and about 55 days to repair the more severely damaged C-5, Handy said.

TRANSCOM officials "have dealt with the threat" in Iraq and Afghanistan, Handy said, by instituting a variety of classified security measures.

"Every [transport] mission that goes in gets advice about what they might need and what tactics to use," Handy said.

When it comes to unsuccessful attacks, news reports from Iraq mentioning firings on transports surface occasionally, but most of the incidents occur with little or no public acknowledgment.

For the pilots and crews of the transports that are shot at, however, "every one [of such incidents] is important," Handy said.

"If you're in that one airplane that [gets fired on], believe me, it's significant."

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: [burgessl@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:burgessl@stripes.osd.mil)

Dec. 3.

The next incident occurred Dec. 10, when an Air Force C-17 with a crew of three and 13 passengers was hit. U.S. defense officials said at the time that based on witness reports, a surface-to-air missile was again responsible for the damage.

On Jan. 8, another missile hit a C-5 cargo plane, this one carrying 11 crewmembers and 52 U.S. military personnel.

The No. 4 engine on the C-5 exploded,

# Sergeant's court-martial begins in Iraq carjacking

The Associated Press

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — An Army sergeant accused of carjacking a sheik's sports utility vehicle in Iraq orchestrated a cover-up with other soldiers, the prosecution argued Tuesday in the first day of his court-martial.

Sgt. 1st Class James Williams,

37, is charged with armed robbery and willful dereliction of duty. If convicted, he faces up to 15 years in prison.

"This is a case about a noncommissioned officer that decided in Iraq that the law no longer applied to him," said Capt. Howard Hoeghe, an Army prosecutor.

Bernard Casey, Williams' civilian attorney, argued the SUV was taken properly in April 2003 under rules of engagement allowing personal property to be seized for military use.

Casey said the vehicle was taken only after Williams' lieutenant instructed soldiers to find him

a vehicle, and that it was the lieutenant, Bradley Havlik, who came up with the cover story that the SUV was found abandoned.

Hoeghe said Williams pointed a handgun at the driver as another soldier, Staff Sgt. Alberto Lozano, pointed his rifle at the driver and told him to drive his hands.

Williams later cleaned papers written in Arabic out of the SUV and another soldier pulled off the license plate, Hoeghe said.

Lozano testified Tuesday that at the time he believed he was following the rules of engagement, but now believes they used excessive force.

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# Naples sailors suspected of drug-related offenses

BY KENDRA HELMER

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is investigating five Naples sailors for suspected drug-related offenses.

The sailors are assigned to Submarine Group Eight's operations department, said Cmdr. Cate Mueller, 6th Fleet spokesman.

"Because the investigation is ongoing and no charges have been referred... it would not be appropriate to provide any details of these incidents," Mueller said.

Joseph Hicks, NCIS supervisory

special agent, also said he could not comment on an open investigation.

About 140 sailors in Naples are assigned to Submarine Group Eight. The command encompasses Task Force 69, the U.S. 6th Fleet's submarine arm; submarines of NATO's Allied Naval Forces South; La Maddalena, Italy-based Submarine Squadron 22; and the USS Emory S. Land, a La Maddalena-based submarine repair and supply ship.

The command would not comment on whether all sailors in the sub group would be tested for drugs.

"Periodic command-wide urinalysis testing is conducted in accordance with governing instructions and Navy policy," the Navy said in an e-mail response to questions from Stars and Stripes. "Because the investigation is ongoing, it would not be appropriate to discuss any details."

Submarine Group Eight has no permanently assigned submarines but has operational control of U.S. subs in the 6th Fleet region and NATO submarines in the Mediterranean.

E-mail Kendra Helmer at: [helmerk1@mail.strips.osd.mil](mailto:helmerk1@mail.strips.osd.mil)

## Show of gratitude

Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey, commander of V Corps' 1st Armored Division, thanks soldiers and airmen of the corps headquarters staff in a ceremony Tuesday on Victory Park at Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, Germany. Dempsey handed out certificates and division coins for the troops' support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



MICHAEL HART  
Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Stars and Stripes

## Messages of Support



THANKS MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMED FORCES!!! WE ARE PRAYING FOR YOU DAILY!! GOD BLESS YOU



To S. Odom, Hey honey, I hope this message reaches you were ever you are. I want you to know that me and the kids are thinking about you every minute of everyday. We are so proud of you and I have faith that you will be home with us soon. Be safe and strong and know that we are waiting for you. I love you so much!!! love Billie and the kids



To my group of angels, You are thought of more than you know. I wanted you to know that dinner is still on. And you can even bring Jack. Love Kat



E. Aguilar: Lalo, I hope you will get this message from your family (tia Martha). Want to let you know we are all PRAYING for you. If there is any way to let us know you are ok, please do so, I will relay

it to your mom right away. WE LOVE YOU AND CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU TO COME HOME A HERO!!!! Love, Vincent, Martha, Ryan & Amanda (Lalooosoo)



Hello, I'm a twenty-four-year-old law student who wanted to let you know that you are constantly thought of and prayed for. I guess I just wanted to let you know how proud and thankful I am for having you defending our country. Jaimala Pai



To Spc. Edward: Just wanted to let you know you're in my thoughts and prayers all the time, and I miss you very much!! Please come home safe and sound, and soon!! Love you always, and I look forward to your return home! God bless each and every one of you!! A. Ward. Rogersville, TN



Our thoughts are with you at this time! You are our heroes and we are truly grateful for what you are doing for us. We hope this will all end soon and you can come home!

## Feldman handed reins of 280th BSB

Lt. Col. Jeffrey L. Feldman replaced Lt. Col. Edward Manning as commander of the 280th Base Support Battalion in a ceremony Tuesday at Ledward Barracks in Schweinfurt, Germany.

Feldman, 44, was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1985 after graduating from Kutztown State University in Pennsylvania. He served in South Korea and Hawaii before attending school for psychological operations training, later serving with the 1st PSYOP Battalion and in staff positions.

Most recently, he has worked in the Pentagon as a military assistant to the assistant secretary of defense for special operations-low-intensity conflict.

He and his wife, Barbara, have two children.

Manning, 41, is an airborne-qualified air defense artillery officer who has commanded the Schweinfurt-based 280th BSB since July 2002.

His next assignment will be with the Southern European Task Force in Vicenza, Italy.

## Schweinfurt mourns two killed in Iraq

SCHWEINFURT, Germany — The Schweinfurt military community will honor two 1st Infantry Division soldiers, both killed in Iraq, at 1 p.m. Thursday in the chapel at Ledward Barracks.

Pfc. Nicholas Blodgett, 21, of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, died July 21 when his patrol vehicle hit a homemade bomb in Abdullayyah. Pfc. Nicholas Zangara, 21, of the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, died Saturday in Tikrit in a separate road bomb explosion.

Twenty-three soldiers from Schweinfurt-based units have been killed since the 1st ID deployed to the Middle East in February, as have 20 others from nearby bases in Vilseck, Bamberg and Kitzingen.

## Budney taking over USS Emory S. Land

LA MADDALENA, Italy — Capt. Michael Budney relieved Capt. David M. Volonino as commanding officer of the USS Emory S. Land during a ceremony Wednesday.

The Emory S. Land is an intermediate repair facility serving the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf areas. It helps repair, resupply and reload surface ships and submarines.

Volonino's new assignment is chief of staff for Attack Carrier Strike Force 7th Fleet/Carrier Group 5, the USS Kitty Hawk Battle Group.

Budney reports from the U.S. Naval Academy, where he served as the 3rd Battalion officer and acting deputy commandant. His previous sea tours include duty on board USS Memphis, USS Simon Lake, USS Montpelier and commander of the USS Pennsylvania.

## VA hospital scraps new computer system

TAMPA, Fla. — The Department of Veterans Affairs said Tuesday it is scrapping a hospital's troubled new computer system because of problems that have delayed surgeries, prompted congressional investigations and led to the resignation of several top officials.

The agency is phasing out Bay Pines VA Medical Center's use of the computer system called the Core Financial and Logistics System, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi said in a statement.

The system was in use at the hospital as a pilot project to see how it worked before it was expanded to the rest of the VA system nationwide.

From staff and wire reports

Stars and Stripes

## Messages of Support



To Our Men and Women of the Armed Forces, We Support you 100 percent!!!! We can't thank you enough for the job you are doing. We pray for you several times each day and will be there with open arms when you return. Thank You for giving us Life. Your Yakima, Wa. extended family. XXXXXXXXXX

Stars and Stripes

## Messages of Support



My husband died 16 years ago as an American Veteran. We were a military family for many years. Went wherever our nation sent us, and I am glad that there are still people out there who want to defend their country. I pray for each and every one of you every day. God bless you and keep you. A BIG THANKS FROM THE HANSON FAMILY



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Ken Gibbs of Protective Maintenance Systems in England on Wednesday paints the F-111 that is part of RAF Lakenheath's static display of aircraft. The base was named the best-looking USAF base.

## Lakenheath 'best looking' in Europe

Base gets 1st U.S. Air Force in Europe award

BY RON JENSEN  
Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — The home of the 48th Fighter Wing has \$100,000 to spend after being named the best-looking U.S. Air Force base in Europe.

RAF Lakenheath took the top prize in the command-sponsored competition after it was visited Friday by the evaluation team led by Brig. Gen. Vern "Rusty" Findlay, USAF plans and programs director.

Ramstein Air Base, Germany, was the second place winner and receives \$50,000.

"It's great," said Brig. Gen. Mark T. Matthews, wing commander. "One hundred thousand dollars is nothing to sneeze at."

The program gives the base flexibility on how to use the money.

The competition, which will be held annually, is part of Combat Proud, one of 14 combat and special interest programs initiated last fall by Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAF commander. It is designed to improve base appearance and develop community pride.

A team visited and evaluated seven major installations in the command before choosing RAF Lakenheath based on factors such as general appearance, building exteriors and base self-help projects.

Matthews said the base responded when Foglesong announced the programs, breaking the base into sectors and putting squadrons in charge of them, much like the Adopt-A-Highway program in America.

He said the base has always looked good, but the effort was to make it look even better.

"It's like your house," he said. "That's what we want people to think. 'This is my house.'"

Lt. Col. D.J. Junio, 48th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, said the base picked up the tempo a bit while preparing for the inspection.

"It came to a crescendo at the perfect time," he said.

Capt. Kristen Bakotic, the base appearance project officer and member of the 48th CES, said the effort included the entire base population.

"We really had to do a change in mind-set," she said.

The operations for the base are high, with deployments, exercises and inspections coming fast and furious.

"Because of that, people let the little things slide," she said.

People were reminded not to leave trash on the ground around dumpsters and to pick up litter. Thousands of sets of eyes were on the lookout for anything that needed painted, cleaned or otherwise spruced up.

"There is a certain level of pride now," she said.

Matthews said the effort is directly linked to the base's main mission — to be ready to go to war for the United States. He said the appearance of the base is reflected in the performance of the base's mission.

Junio said the attitude fostered by the competition probably would last.

"The challenge is to sustain it. We don't want to take a dip," he said.

"Everybody's jumping on the bandwagon. I think it will make it a little more easier."

E-mail Ron Jensen at:  
jensen@mail.estrps.osd.mil

## Sigonella worker busted for stealing commissary goods

BY KENDRA HELMER  
Stars and Stripes

A Naval Air Station Sigonella local national employee was busted last week for stealing from the base commissary.

Commissary officials in Sicily alerted the Italian carabinieri after noticing an ongoing discrepancy in inventory, especially of high-priced meat items, said Gerri Young, spokeswoman for the Defense Commissary Agency, Europe.

While randomly checking local national employees' vehicles as they left base late July 20, carabinieri officers noticed a bulge under Giuseppe Scuto's jacket.

The carabinieri reportedly found commissary

goods on the night-shift store worker and in his vehicle.

A local newspaper that reported the carabinieri raided the commissary was incorrect.

Scuto, 38, was arrested and officers searched his residence, where they found about \$600 in commissary goods, said Dan D'Ambruso, supervisory special agent for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

Italian authorities sentenced Scuto to 1 and a half years of probation. Scuto also lost his job at the store, where he had worked since 1996, Young said.

"We understand and believe that most of our employees are very loyal and honest," Young said. "However, sometimes things like this happen."

E-mail Kendra Helmer at:  
helmerk@mail.estrps.osd.mil

## New rifle still on track

COLUMBUS, Ga. — The U.S. Army's pursuit of a weapon to replace the aging M-16 rifle is still on track despite a failed congressional attempt to pump nearly \$26 million into the federal budget for manufacturing the weapon in 2005.

Military and legislative officials said last week that develop-

ment and testing of the new XM8 assault rifle will resume later this month and run through December. It will be the second round of tests for the highly anticipated rifle, with evaluations taking place in the hot, gritty desert near Yuma, Ariz., the tropical jungles of Panama, and the arctic climate in Alaska, said Col. Mike Smith, who oversees the XM8 testing program at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey.

"After this round of testing, we will present our findings and our ability to meet the requirements, which are developed at Fort Benning, to the Army leadership, which should be in the late February time frame," Smith said. "Then they'll make a decision on how to go forward on the program, and how fast to go forward on the program."

From wire reports

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# Navy full steam ahead with cashless ship

The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — The aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman is among the first wave of cashless ships, with its crew relying instead on red, white and blue debit cards.

The switch to plastic has done away with the chapel's collection plate. Worshippers donate electronically on their way in and out of services.

For the past two months, more than 5,000 sailors and Marines carried the debit-only MasterCards at sea. The cards were loaded with cash by crewmembers, who transferred money from their personal bank accounts by using one of five automated teller machines on board.

The Harry S. Truman is one of 24 Navy ships that no longer use cash on board.

"We couldn't be any happier with the program," said Cmdr. John King, the Truman's supply officer.

Every place dollars and cents had been used before — from the vending machines on the mess decks to the ship store to the ticket booth at the carrier's recreation department — now takes only plastic.

With the card, sailors at sea can receive pay, access home bank and credit union accounts, transfer and withdraw money, and

make purchases.

The carrier used to carry \$250,000 in coins, largely to feed the vending machines.

"There were some people who were skeptical when we first started," King said. "Now we have very few naysayers."

The Truman completed two months at sea on Sunday as part of a large-scale deployment for seven carriers around the world.

When the carrier pulled into ports like Naples, Italy, Petty Officer 2nd Class Cather Bohannon didn't head to the currency exchange with a wad of bills. Instead, she said she stuck the new card in an ATM in town, taking out euros instead of dollars to buy souvenirs at the Hard Rock Cafe in Rome.

"I think it has great advantages for sailors," said Bohannon, 36. "You can find out your balance right there."

The Navy is moving ahead full steam with the cashless fleet.

Last month, the Naval Supply Systems Command, in conjunction with the federal Department of the Treasury, announced that the program would be expanded to a total of 175 ships over the next four years.

It started in April 2001 on the fast frigate *Rentz* based in San Diego.

Over the next two years, the



JAY PUGH/Courtesy of U.S. Navy

**Petty Officer 2nd Class Andrea Decanini makes a purchase with a Navy debit card in the store on the Harry S. Truman. The card pilot program has processed \$27 million since its inception in April 2001.**

pilot program grew to include eight ships representing six ship classes.

More than 25,643 "Navy/Marine Cash" cards are currently issued on 24 ships, with \$27 million processed since the program's in-

ception.

More than 5.7 million transactions have been completed with nary a penny changing hands.

According to Scott Nester, a chief petty officer on the Truman, the money collected on the carrier

used to take people working in shifts around the clock to count and process.

"Now, it's all done electronically, so I can use those two people elsewhere in my operations," he said in a Navy news release.

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Photo by Anas Dulami/Stars and Stripes



"Fahrenheit 9/11" filmmaker Michael Moore speaks to the crowd at an event for Campaign for America's Future in Cambridge, Mass., on Tuesday. AAFES says it is trying to get copies of the film overseas.

## AAFES trying to get 'Fahrenheit 9/11'

BY PATRICK DICKSON  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" might not be playing on overseas bases anytime soon, but AAFES promised Wednesday it's doing its best to acquire copies of the film.

Spokesman Judd Anstey said that "the status is unchanged" from four weeks ago, when AAFES said that the only factor in getting a movie is its popularity, and that the controversy surrounding Fahrenheit 9/11 would not affect the decision.

A source at the Navy Motion Picture Service, who wished to remain anonymous, said the Navy had not yet made a decision as to whether to pursue the film for overseas and shipboard showings.

Anstey said that with it being a documentary, there just aren't enough prints to go around at the moment, a sign perhaps that its popularity in the United States might result in even longer waits for servicemembers overseas.

In just over five weeks, the movie has grossed more than \$103 million in the United States and is by far the highest-grossing documentary of all time, besting "Bowling for Columbine," another Moore documentary, which took in just over \$21 million.

Anstey said that a film like Will Smith's "I, Robot," is already playing at overseas theaters not because AAFES pursued it, but because distributors have plenty of prints and are saturating the market.

He drew a comparison to Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," which also had a smaller print run than standard Hollywood fare, but which has grossed \$370 million since February.

"With 'The Passion,' it took us two months to get that into overseas theaters," Anstey said. "We're at five weeks now [that 'Fahrenheit 9/11' has been out]."

For servicemembers venturing off base to see the film, the movie has opened in England and Spain, is scheduled to open in Germany

this week and in Italy in late August.

In Crawford, Texas, where President Bush is vacationing, Moore set up a 9 p.m. showing Wednesday night.

The Crawford Peace House asked Moore for a copy of his film "Fahrenheit 9/11" when it appeared that no movie theater in the president's home county would show the anti-Bush documentary.

Organizers expect about 1,000 people to attend.

Crawford's police chief, Donnie Tidmore, said some residents of the community 20 miles west of Waco planned to demonstrate against the movie.

"I personally think we're just a little town, and it's kind of a joke in our small town," said Fran Shelton, whose family owns the Crawford Coffee Station. "Everyone's entitled to their opinion, but I'd be happier if he didn't bring it to Crawford."

The Associated Press contributed to this report. E-mail Pat Dickson at: dickson@stripes.com

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## Portable sacraments to bring spiritual aid to troops in field

BY LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — First came portable chapels, then portable altars. Now the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps has developed portable sacraments: communion wafers and wine or juice in a peel-and-serve package, no larger than the single-serve cheese spread and crackers packages in vending machines.

The Small Group Sacramental Packet is the Chaplain Corps' latest effort to bring spiritual aid to U.S. troops in the field, according to Chaplain John Wheatley, an Army major who with the Research Development and Engineering Command in the U.S. Army Soldier System Center — Natick, in Massachusetts.

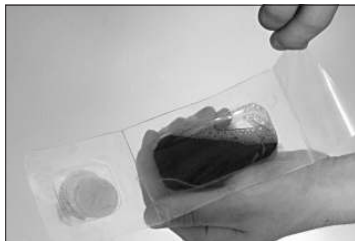
One of the duties of chaplains in the field is to offer Christians the Eucharist, often called the "Holy Communion" or simply, "Communion."

The packets contain the two elements necessary for the communion ceremony: unleavened bread, or "the Host," and either wine or grape juice.

The grape juice is included because some Protestants eschew alcohol, not because U.S. military chaplains are prohibited from bringing wine into Muslim countries, Wheatley said.

The pack is a divided plastic container, sealed with a peel-back plastic sheet.

One section holds about eight



The Small Group Sacramental Packet, shown above with grape juice, will help chaplains offer Communion to churchgoers in the field.

Communion wafers, and the other, either a few tablespoons of white wine, or the same amount of juice — just enough holy liquid to provide a tiny sip for eight communions.

Once enough samples have been manufactured, they will be distributed to chaplains working in "both training environments and in real-world deployment settings," so the testers can see whether the "technology and packing concepts support the chaplains' requirements," Wheatley said.

In addition to the communion packs, the Chaplain Corps is also developing new "Soldier Spiritual Readiness Packets" that are stan-

dardized for Protestant, Roman Catholic, Judaism, Islam "and possibly other faith groups as needed," Wheatley said.

Each unit comes packaged in a small waterproof, resealable tan plastic sack that can fit in a trouser cargo pocket, allowing "the individual Soldier to keep and protect those religious items they use to sustain their spiritual lives," Wheatley said.

The Chaplain Corps has yet to set a schedule to begin handing out the packages, but when they become available, the items will be distributed at the request of the soldier, and by chaplains in both training and deployment settings, Wheatley said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.com

Stars and Stripes

## Messages of Support

★ To America's HERO, You inspire A nation. Who desperately need your courage! Your acts of selfishness, teach us to be better people! Your love of freedom makes you A GOD!! My heart, And the hearts of many, will be with you ALWAYS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! MAY YOU RETURN HOME SOON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! DON'T FORGET, YOU ARE AN AMERICAN... Love, The Greenough's

★ Sgt. Ricky M: You're my hero and soul mate and always will be. Always remember if God brings you to it, he will bring you through it. You're always in my thoughts, prayers, & heart. We can't wait to have you home again. All our love, Michelle & kids

★ Dear Brave Men and Women, May God Bless you and hold you in the palm of HIS hand. Our thoughts and prayers are with you daily. Sincerely, The DePalma Family

★ Come home safe! You're in my thoughts and prayers daily. From a person that cares about all of you.

★ To all the Brave Men and Women, Let me just start by saying God-bless each and every one of you, and from the bottom of my heart "Thank You!"

You have no ideal how very proud my family and I are of each and every one of you fighting in the Middle East, under the worst conditions... May God always be with each of you as you begin and end each day, stay safe... and if you see my son-in-law, whom we adore give him our love and tell him he's awesome, loved and missed by all...

Thank you for making it a safer place to live in... hurry home safe and sound, we love you!!! God keep you safe, each and everyone! The Peres's

★ thank you for our freedom, you are constantly in my prayers, a mom

★ Dear T. Hofmann: Hi from your family! We love and miss you very much! We are all doing great and can't wait to see you again. Love Susan and Nate

★ Cpl. Jenn—Thinking about and praying for you. Sock it to 'em! Semper Fi. Hugs, Sarah in WA

## IN THE WORLD

## Powell visits Middle East

BY GEORGE GEDDA

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Touching on two sensitive Mideast issues, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell on Wednesday repeated calls for reform in the Palestinian leadership and urged pressure on Sudan to stop violence blamed on ethnic cleansing.

Powell, in the first stop on a regional tour, also condemned the car bombing in Iraq that killed dozens of Iraqis on Wednesday — the deadliest since the United States handed over sovereignty to an interim government. He said that he still believed Iraq's elections could be held as scheduled in January.

"We are holding to that date," Powell said at a news conference after a series of meetings with Egyptian leaders. "We continue to solicit assistance from other nations to provide additional forces that might be able to provide security for the U.N. workers who are coming in for the election."

Powell arrived in Egypt on Tuesday on a Mideast tour aimed at trying to revive the Palestinian-Israeli peace process and talking with some of America's closest Arab allies about Iraq's future, the war on terror, violence in Sudan and the U.S. initiative to



Secretary of State Colin Powell, left, meets Wednesday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Powell's first stop on a Middle East tour.

encourage greater democracy in this troubled region.

On Sudan, where Arab-led militia have attacked blacks in the Darfur region, Powell said he agreed with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that "we have to give the Sudanese government more time" to stop the fighting and facilitate humanitarian deliveries to the people in the besieged region.

After Powell and Mubarak met Wednesday morning, presidential spokesman Maged Abdel Fattah issued a statement to reporters saying the two had agreed Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Palestinian Prime Minister

Ahmed Qureia should work together.

Qureia on Tuesday withdrew a resignation he had offered 10 days ago in frustration at Arafat's refusal to let him restructure the security forces and deal with growing unrest in the Palestinian areas.

Arafat's almost absolute control over the Palestinian Authority has been a source of frustration for the United States and other countries demanding reform in the Palestinian leadership. The Israelis have frozen out Arafat, saying he is not a fit negotiating partner. The Americans have tried to present Qureia as an alternative.

## Israel ready to pay some Jewish settlers

BY ARTHUR MAX

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The government is in compensation talks with Jewish settlers to leave their homes, a lawyer said Wednesday, as Israel moved forward with its plan to dismantle settlements and withdraw its army from the Gaza Strip next year.

Meanwhile, Palestinians were waiting to see if Yasser Arafat will live up to his bargain Tuesday giving his prime minister more authority, a deal that ended an immediate leadership crisis between the two men.

Embracing and smiling, the Palestinian leader and Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia patched up their differences at a meeting in Arafat's offices.

Qureia withdrew his 10-day-old resignation letter and prepared to take charge of part of the security forces formerly under Arafat's control.

The reconciliation was meant to calm demonstrations, kidnappings and the seizure or sacking of police stations and Palestinian Authority buildings that had thrown the Gaza Strip into turmoil.

But the promises Arafat made to defuse the crisis were vague, and left Palestinians wondering whether real power would change hands.

"Today was a significant step in a long road," said Saeb Erekat, a Cabinet minister and peace negotiator. "Our people and the world will judge us in accordance with our deeds and not our words."

In the Gaza Strip early Wednesday, Israeli tanks and bulldozers cut off the coastal road and leveled surrounding agricultural fields and poultry farms, under heavy machine gun fire to keep residents away. Palestinian witnesses and officials said.

There were no reports of casualties.

Israeli Justice Ministry officials have promised the settlers that advance compensation payments could be paid within two months for those who voluntarily leave the Gaza Strip, said Joseph Tamir, representing about 90 families.

Many of the 8,000 Gaza settlers say they will resist the plan announced by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to leave Gaza by September 2005.

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# Spanish leader defends ETA train bombs theory

By ED McCULLOUGH

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Spain's former interior minister on Wednesday defended his initial vigorous and repeated claims that Basque separatists were to blame for the Madrid train bombings, a misstep widely believed to have cost the previous government the election days later.

In a remarkable hearing before the parliamentary commission investigating the terrorist attack and its political aftermath, lawmakers grilled Angel Acebes straight for seven hours about why he felt so sure that the Basque militant group ETA was responsible.

In his testimony, Acebes also said that most of those directly re-

sponsible for launching the coordinated attacks are in custody, but some ringleaders probably remain at large.

"I believe everything pointed to ETA," Acebes told the largely skeptical commission.

In the aftermath of March 11 bombings, which blasted holes in four commuter trains and killed 191 people, Acebes made numerous public statements blaming ETA for the attack. Meanwhile, police were already following the trail left by Islamic terrorists thought to have links with al-Qaida.

Acebes claimed it was also the "unanimous" conclusion of police in the days after the attack that ETA was a main suspect.

"Nothing pointed in any other direction," he said.

However, critics charge that Spain's governing Popular Party misinformed the public to shield itself from feared voter backlash in elections three days away. Leaders of the conservative government, critics allege, worried the attacks could be perceived as retribution by Islamic militants for their support for the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

There also have been suggestions that police had shifted their focus to Islamic militants, long before the government acknowledged it.

Hours after the 10 near simultaneous blasts, investigators turned up a van containing detonators, explosives and a tape with Quranic verses near a train station that the doomed trains pass through.

Before the blasts, Spain's only recent experience with terrorism was from ETA, which has struggled for decades for a Basque homeland in northern Spain. ETA also has placed bombs on trains and attacked civilian targets without regard to loss of life, Acebes noted.

ETA leaders quickly denied involvement in the attacks.

## Flood-hit areas of Asia to get EU aid



AP

A man fishes inside a flooded market Wednesday in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Deaths from monsoon rains across South Asia reached 1,238 on Wednesday as Bangladesh remained awash in the worst floods in six years and waterborne diseases began taking their toll. The European Union's head office said Wednesday it was sending emergency aid to flood-hit areas of South Asia, including India and Bangladesh, as well as to Tajikistan. The EU said the humanitarian aid was needed after this year's monsoon season, which the EU said was "much heavier, and struck earlier, than usual." The EU said the funds for aid to Bangladesh and the northern Indian states of Assam and Bihar was to provide emergency provisions like food and medicine.

## Kohl won't fight extradition to Germany

BERLIN — A former German defense official who allegedly accepted a bribe in a party financing scandal that tainted former Chancellor Helmut Kohl will not contest his extradition from France, a German court said Wednesday.

Holger Pfahls, 61, who is accused of accepting 3.8 million marks (\$2.4 million at today's rates) from German-Canadian businessman Karlheinz Schreiber, told the court in writing that he would agree to extradition, said Augsburg prosecutor spokesman Maximilian Hofmeister.

A trial could begin in the fall, Hofmeister said.

Pfahls was arrested earlier this month in Paris on an international arrest warrant after being sought for five years.

He is accused of using his position as a top defense military official to ensure 36 Fuchs armored vehicles were passed from the German military to Saudi Arabia after arms manufacturer Thyssen-Henschel failed to deliver the units on time to Saudi forces during the 1991 Gulf War.

Allegations that Schreiber gave a cash donation to the former treasurer of Kohl's Christian Democrats in 1991 triggered a scandal that deepened with Kohl's 1999 admission that he had personally accepted off-the-book donations from supporters.

Pfahls' defense attorney, Volker Hoffmann, said that his client wanted to return to Germany as soon as possible, but the extradition still requires formal approval by a French court and the French prime minister.

From The Associated Press

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## IN THE STATES

## Study: 3-day wait didn't slow illegal gun sales

BY CURT ANDERSON  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 7,000 people who should have been barred from buying guns were able to buy them anyway in 2002 and 2003, according to a Jus-

tice Department review.

The government rarely prosecutes such cases, said the report released Monday.

Federal law stipulates that gun buyers might have to wait up to three business days before receiving their weapons; under a sys-

tem of instant FBI background checks instituted in 1998, most sales are approved much quicker. Of the 17 million gun purchases in the past two years, 122,000 were denied because of the checks.

If the background check isn't

completed within the period, however, the law says the purchase must go through. In 2002 and 2003, there were a combined 7,030 "delayed denial" cases in which the FBI found that a prohibited person was able to get a gun after the period expired, according to the review by Glenn A. Fine, the Justice Department's inspector general.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives reviewed the weapon in 97 percent of those cases. That sometimes took a year or longer, ample time for an illegal buyer to use the gun to commit a crime.

The study did not say how many times that occurred but provided some examples, including an instance in which a prohibited buyer was charged with aggravated assault after firing the illegally purchased weapon at another person's car.

Several reasons were cited by ATF for its failure to retrieve the guns more quickly, including staffing shortages, technology problems and lack of adequate timeliness standards. The review

also found that ATF agents did not consider it a priority to track down the illegal gun purchasers because they are not viewed as dangerous.

"We were also told that 'bad guys' generally do not purchase their firearms through legitimate dealers" but instead do so illegally, at unregulated gun shows or flea markets or through other means, the review said.

The study also found that federal prosecutors brought charges in only 154 of the 122,000 illegal purchases cases.

Many U.S. attorneys believe cases are difficult to bring to a jury, the review said, partly because a denial can occur because of seemingly minor offenses that happened long ago. Examples include a man who had stolen a pig in 1941 and someone with an attempted burglary conviction dating to 1963.

Fine said in the study, however, that "because someone has committed only nonviolent crimes in the past does not mean that he or she is not capable of using the illegally obtained firearm to commit a violent crime."

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Copies of "The 9/11 Commission Report" on display at a Borders bookstore in New York on Friday. The book has been flying off shelves and more copies have been ordered.

AP

## 9/11 report popular on Web and in stores

BY HILLE ITALIE  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — At least 50 million hits have been recorded on the Web site of the Sept. 11 commission.

Meanwhile, another 200,000 copies of the book version of the commission's report on the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have been ordered, bringing the total in print to 800,000, a spokeswoman said Tuesday.

"Our random sampling of stores indicates that a number of them have sold out their entire stocks," said Louise Brockett, a spokeswoman for publisher W.W. Norton.

Publication of the \$10 paperback coincided with the release July 22 of a report by a bipartisan panel on the deadliest terrorist attack in U.S. history. Citing multiple government failures, the commission called for a national counterterrorism center headed by a Cabinet-level director to centralize intelligence efforts.

An estimated 350,000 copies had been sold through Sunday, according to Brockett, and the book for days has topped the best seller lists for Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com. A hardcover edition, with a suggested price of \$29.95, is scheduled to come out at the end of August. Brockett said the hardcover will include an extensive index, which the paperback does not have, and will be sold primarily to libraries.

Any profits would be donated to charity, Brockett said.

The report is also available for free on the commission's Web site. Spokesman Al Feitenberg said 50 million hits were received as of Friday.

"I've gotten calls from China asking if there will be printings in other languages," said Feitenberg, who did not know how many Web visitors had downloaded the text. "It's gratifying that so many people have bought it and are engaged by it."

Translations are planned in Arabic, Mandarin, French, German and other languages.

# Wife, party's stars laud Kerry's war record

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — John Kerry headed back to his hometown Wednesday to collect the Democratic Party's nomination for the White House and watch his running mate test his courtroom-developed Southern charm on convention delegates and a nationwide TV audience.

After campaigning his way home through Florida, Virginia and Pennsylvania this week, the Massachusetts senator arranged a Boston Harbor arrival as 4,350-plus delegates turned their attention to John Edwards, the convention's star attraction Wednesday.

Aiming to infuse the Democrats' drive for the White House with youth and energy, Edwards will address delegates just before they begin the once-every-four-years roll call of states to make Kerry their presidential nominee.

Kerry planned a dramatic arrival, riding a water taxi across the harbor. On Tuesday, he cited his qualifications to be commander in chief and asserted, "I will and I can fight a more effective war on terror than George Bush is."

Visiting Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base on Tuesday in California, Vice President Dick Cheney said both Kerry and Edwards voted yes for war, but against subsequent funding for the troops. "We need a president who will back our troops 100 percent, and that's exactly what we've got in George W. Bush," the vice president said.

At the Democratic Convention on Tuesday night, in her first big political speech, Kerry's wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry, sought to shield him from that accusation, saying his positions on the environment and other issues were just common sense. She took her own jabs at Bush, describing her husband as a fighter who earned three Purple Hearts "the old-fashioned way, by putting his life on the line for his country."

*"... I urge you, please, cast a vote for embryonic stem cell research."*

**Ron Reagan**  
son of President Reagan,  
during convention speech

Bush served stateside during Vietnam; Kerry volunteered for combat.

"No one will defend this nation more vigorously than he will," Heinz Kerry said of her husband.

Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the aging liberal icon whom Republicans happily link to Kerry, accused Bush of wasting the "enormous goodwill that flowed to America from across the world" after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

And, it would be one of the greatest coups of the presidential campaign, Ronald Reagan, the

youngest son of the late president, appeared on the podium to speak about stem-cell research.

"Whatever else you do come Nov. 2, I urge you, please, cast a vote for embryonic stem cell research," Reagan said.

He mentioned neither Kerry nor Bush. But he made clear that his sentiments were with Kerry, who had called to thank him for accepting the Democratic invitation.

Some of the biggest applause of the night came for Barack Obama, the Democratic candidate for Senate from Illinois who described Kerry as a war hero who has long made "tough choices when easier ones were available."

Without mentioning Bush by name, Obama said the president had failed to level with the public before ordering troops into Iraq.

The youngest speaker at the convention was less hesitant about naming names. Ilana Wexler, a 12-year-old from Oakland, Calif., who founded a group called kidsforkerry.org, took a job at Cheney for his recent casting-out of Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy on the Senate floor.

"Our vice president deserves a long time out," the girl said, to roars of approval.

Several of Kerry's former primary foes had their turn at the convention podium. Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, who stirred emotions early in the campaign when he vowed to represent the "Democratic wing of the Democratic Party," also drew loud applause.



Teresa Heinz Kerry, wife of Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry, promotes her husband's service in the Vietnam War in a speech at the Democratic National Convention in Boston on Tuesday. "No one will defend this nation more vigorously than he will," Heinz Kerry said.

## No Bush-bashing edict hard for some to handle

BY RON FOURNIER  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — No Bush-bashing, the memo said. No way, some Democrats replied.

Eager to take President Bush head-on, they have found the convention's go-positive strategy easier to understand than to heed.

Donna Brazile is one. Al Gore's former campaign manager received written instructions from John Kerry's campaign to keep the nominating convention focused on the candidate, not the Republican incumbent.

"Being a Christian woman, I called them and said, 'Lord, have mercy, I cannot hold my tongue. What am I going to do?'" she said.

Bite your tongue, she was told. Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano laughed at the thought. "She must have calluses," the governor said.

They were not the only Democrats champing at the bit, struggling to walk that fine line between going too hard on Bush and being too soft.

"Let Kerry and Edwards be the good cops," Rep. Jesse Jackson, D., told Louisiana delegates. "But we'll be fighting in the streets." Later, Jackson said he was talking about political war-

fare waged on behalf of Kerry and running mate John Edwards.

Bringing that fight indoors would upset Kerry's image machine, including a team of writers who rounded off the rough edges of every convention speech.

■ Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., denounced "this misguided war in Iraq." Not quite like calling it "fraud made up in Texas," as Kennedy did 11 months ago.

■ Former Kerry rival Howard Dean spoke of a foreign policy "that relies on telling the truth to the American people." He did not mention Bush by name nor directly accuse him of lying, diplomatic niceties that Dean has never before extended to the incumbent.

■ Al Gore, who once said Bush had "twisted values and atrocious policies" on Iraq, mildly accused the president of "confusing al-Qaida with Iraq."

It was all part of Kerry's strategy to appeal to independent voters, most of whom tell pollsters they're turned off by negative politics.

Attacking the president would galvanize the 4,000-plus delegates in Boston and hard-core Democrats elsewhere. But Kerry's team has determined that the base is already united against the White House. What's needed are the independent undecideds.



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# Criminal population rising

BY CURT ANDERSON  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A record 6.9 million adults were incarcerated or on probation or parole last year, nearly 131,000 more than in 2002, according to a Justice Department study.

Put another way, about 3.2 percent of the adult U.S. population, or 1 in 32 adults, were incarcerated or on probation or parole at the end of last year.

A record 4.8 million adults were on probation or parole in 2003, about 73,000 more than the year before. About 70 percent of adults involved in federal, state or local corrections systems fall into this category. The states of

California and Texas together accounted for about 1 million.

The number of adults on parole after serving a prison sentence rose by 3.1 percent from 2002 to 2003, to more than 774,500 people.

That compares with an average annual rise of about 1.7 percent since 1995 for those on parole, a figure that has been increasing at a much slower rate than those in jails (4 percent a year), in prison (3.4 percent) and on probation (2.9 percent).

Since 1995, states around the country have increased the use of mandatory parole after prison release and cut down on use of discretionary releases overseen by parole boards, the report says.

The report, released Sunday, focused most on the characteristics of those on probation or parole. Its findings include:

■ Almost half of all probationers were convicted of a felony, with 25 percent convicted of a drug violation.

■ Of the 2.2 million people discharged from probation in 2003, three out of five met the conditions of their supervision. Another 16 percent were jailed because of a rule violation or a new crime, with 4 percent becoming fugitives.

■ About 95 percent of those on parole had been convicted of a felony.

■ Of the 470,500 parolees discharged from supervision last year, 38 percent went back to jail for a new crime or a rule violation, with 9 percent becoming fugitives.

## American terror suspect's family sues U.S. over Saudi detainment

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The parents of an American jailed without charge in Saudi Arabia sued the United States on Wednesday in what lawyers say is the first lawsuit filed on behalf of a U.S. citizen detained in a third country at the U.S. government's request.

The parents claim his being held in Saudi Arabia is a deliberate attempt to keep him out of U.S. courts and in the hands of jailers who could abuse or torture him for information.

The family's lawyers cite last month's Supreme Court rulings that alleged enemy combatants held at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, can take their claims to U.S. courts.

Aliamed Abu Ali was arrested 13 months ago in

Saudi Arabia as part of an American anti-terrorism investigation. The U.S. government ordered the arrest and has refused to say when or if Abu Ali would be charged or released, the family alleged in a suit filed in U.S. District Court in Washington.

The family wants an American judge to order Abu Ali returned to the United States, where he might face charges as part of an alleged terrorism training ring in Virginia.

"Although petitioner Ahmed Abu Ali presently is physically confined in Saudi Arabia, [the U.S. government] directed and conspired with Saudi co-conspirators to carry out his arrest and indefinite detention in that country without due process protections and in violation of other statutory and constitutional standards," lawyers for Abu Ali's family wrote.



A man enjoys the wares at a wine tasting at Millbrook Vineyards & Winery in Millbrook, N.Y., earlier this month. A new study by the National Institutes of Health attempts to balance findings over the beneficial and harmful effects of alcohol consumption.

## Report: Individual health risks decide benefits of alcohol

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Alcohol is the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of the medical world: Drinking too much causes serious problems, while drinking a little may help many people's health.

How many drinks provide just the benefits and not the harm? It depends on whether a person is most at risk of heart disease, diabetes or breast cancer. But there is one bottom line: Five or six drinks only on Saturday night will provide no benefits, while a drink or two a night might.

So concludes an exhaustive new analysis by the National Institutes of Health that sorts out a plethora of sometimes conflicting research on alcohol's effects.

The review was prompted by cardiologists' complaints that patients suddenly were asking if they should start imbibing and how much. Other research is overturning the dogma that people at risk of diabetes should abstain; still more links even light drinking to breast cancer.

Adding confusion, people are vulnerable to more than one disease as they age. A 50-year-old woman with breast cancer in the family might get very different advice on alcohol than one who's

pre-diabetic with high cholesterol.

Hence NIH's review.

"We are not encouraging anybody to start drinking," stresses Lorraine Gunzert of the NIH's National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, who led the analysis published last month in the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research*. After all, alcoholism remains a major health problem, and people with liver disease may not tolerate even moderate drinking.

Instead, the report, aimed at people who already drink some, concludes that to get alcohol's potential health benefits, how much those people can consume must be customized by their age, gender and overall medical history.

For many of these diseases, "If you do drink moderately now, fear ... is not a reason to stop," explains Gunzert. "Some people have said, 'Should I stop now because there's diabetes in my family?' Well, if you're a moderate drinker, there's some protection."

As population-wide advice, consuming two drinks a day for men and one a day for women is linked to lower mortality and unlikely to harm, the review found. Men shouldn't exceed four drinks on any day, and women three — bingeing is simply bad.

Stars and Stripes

## Messages of Support

★ TO ALL OUR BRAVE, MOTIVATED, INCREDIBLE, AND SACRIFICING SOLDIERS OVERSEAS FIGHTING FOR NOT ONLY AMERICANS BUT IRAQIS, MAY GOD SEND HIS BLESSINGS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES! MAY HIS HEALING TOUCH BLESS THE WOUNDED AND HIS MERCY AND GRACE BE WITH THOSE WHO ARE LOST AND THE FAMILIES OF THOSE LOST!! I SPEAK FOR MYSELF AND MY WHOLE ENTIRE FAMILY, GOD BLESS YOU, GOD PROTECT YOU, AND GOD BRING THIS WAR TO A VICTORIOUS END!!! WE LOVE YOU, AND WE PRAY FOR YOU DAILY, WE WATCH THE NEWS CONSTANTLY, WE WILL NOT CEASE UNTIL THE FIGHTING DOES!!! I CAN'T SAY ENOUGH THANK YOU'S TO LET YOU KNOW HOW MUCH MY FAMILY APPRECIATES EVERYTHING YOU DO. MY HUSBAND IS A DISABLED VETERAN FROM THE 82ND AIRBORNE AT FORT BRAGG AND WOULD GIVE ANYTHING TO BE THERE FIGHTING WITH YOU NOW...I MYSELF WOULD SACRIFICE IF HE WAS ABLE TO GO. WE ARE THINKING OF EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU, YOU ARE SO AWESOME, SO BRAVE, THE MOST ELITE CITIZENS OF THIS UNITED STATES.

★ SCREW THE HOLLYWOOD PEACE PIPE SMOKERS, THEY HAVE NOTHING ON YOU!!! GOD BLESS AND LOVE YOU ALL!! CHERI AND MATTHEW, VIRGINIA

★ To D. Lozano, I'm so proud of you! Keep up the good work! Love, Mom

★ To all the service men and women, Thank you for the courage that you have shown and thank you for defending our country. You are all in our prayers. Please stay safe and come home soon. God Bless.  
Joanne D. Staten Island, NY

★ I am honored to have men and women like you to serve our country. After the stories I've heard from my grandfather serving during WWII, I and my two uncles who are Vietnam vets, I give all of you much and tons of appreciation. I hope we succeed what we want to accomplish, in which I have much confidence in. I'd be honored to serve my country and I would but I can't yet. However until then Good Luck and God Bless. Everyone at Casa Grande High School are praying and supporting you. Jamie W.



## Good deed done

**IA** DES MOINES — Imagine finding \$20,000. Now imagine not keeping it. That's the story of Tim Titterton and his son, Dylan.

It happened after the Fourth of July weekend as Titterton, 48, and Dylan, 16, were headed to their farm outside Milford.

"A semi drove past, and it looked like confetti flying around," Titterton said.

It was \$20 bills and receipts from the wallet of Jody Gardner, 54, of Omaha, Neb.

Gardner and her sisters had just closed their dead father's bank accounts. Gardner's share totaled about \$20,000 in cashier's checks and \$1,000 in cash and coins. She stuffed it all in her billfold.

On the trip back to the family home on Lake Okoboji, Gardner stopped to buy groceries in Milford. She drove off with the billfold on the roof of the van.

Titterton and his son said they spent about an hour checking down checks, cash and everything else that had flown out of Gardner's billfold.

Back home, Dylan Titterton found an emergency contact number among the contents. The Tittertons reached a friend of Gardner's, who gave them directions to the lake home.

Dylan found Gardner on a dock behind the house. He asked her if she'd lost her billfold.

"I had no idea," she said. "It was an absolute miracle for me."

She offered the Tittertons a \$100 reward; they refused.

## Police use-of-force study

**RI** PROVIDENCE — For the first time, police are tracking how officers use force as the department expands use of nonlethal weapons. This year, Providence police officers have used verbal threats, pepper spray or gunfire 338 times in 92,000 calls. Police are already using retractable batons and soon will have stun guns.

## Man is dog's best friend

**ND** FARGO — When a 3-year-old chocolate Labrador retriever named Maddy got tangled in a 10-foot rope securing a trampoline floating on a lake, owner Matt Tollefson didn't think twice. Tollefson dove in after her.

When he dragged the dog's lifeless body out, Tollefson again didn't hesitate.

Her eyes were open and her tongue hung to the side of her mouth.

Tollefson performed CPR. "She's part of the family," Tollefson said. "If she's going to go, she wasn't going to go like that."

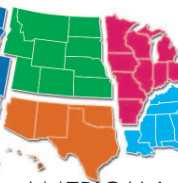
Tollefson alternated compressions on Maddy's chest and blowing air in through her snout.

Tollefson said he took a first responders course in college but is not sure how he knew to blow air through her nose. He said he may have seen it on TV.

Two minutes into it, Maddy showed signs of life.

A veterinarian the next day diagnosed Maddy with aspiration pneumonia and a chip fracture in her shoulder from the compression.

The dog is a little swollen and is taking two steam baths a day to help her recovery. She also is on an-



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

tiotics.

"Maybe she doesn't, but it seems like she looks at me differently," Tollefson said.

## Emergency health funds

**NV** LAS VEGAS — Gov. Kenny Guinn authorized an additional \$289,300 to help Clark County deal with a public health emergency prompted by overcrowded emergency rooms. The allocation is the third in as many weeks since Clark County officials declared the health emergency. A high number of mentally ill patients have overwhelmed area emergency rooms.

## Burglars foiled

**FL** OVIEDO — Janice Gentry is not to be trifled with.

When four suspected burglars tried to make off with her belongings, Gentry and her sons outfoxed them by fashioning a tripwire out of a fishing line and blocking the suspects until authorities arrived and arrested them, deputies said.

Burglars struck Gentry's Oviedo home Saturday afternoon, loading her belongings into her Ford Explorer and searching for another vehicle when it didn't fit in the SUV, according to the Seminole County Sheriff's Office. They tried to steal the neighbor's van but were scared off, deputies said.

Officials say the burglars left intending to return later that night.

Gentry returned home, found her things loaded in her Explorer

and alerted the sheriff's office.

The burglars returned about 3 a.m. Sunday and tried to drive off in the Explorer. By then, Gentry and her two sons had tied a fishing line from her bumper to a bicycle in the garage, and the bicycle came crashing down and alerted Gentry and her sons.

The woman and her sons blocked the driveway with their cars to prevent any escape, said Steve Olson, spokesman for the sheriff's office.

Suspects Whitney D. Davis, 24, Reginald M. Hudson, 19, Patrick Dorcus, 19, and Geraldo Rivera, 16, were charged with burglary, larceny, loitering and prowling. Davis was charged with car burglary and petty theft.

## Police school reopens

**MI** LANSING — The 10 recruits at the Michigan State Police Training Academy comprise the first class to come through the academy in four years. With no money to hire new officers, the state watched as the state trooper ranks dropped to 1,040, the lowest in 35 years. This year, despite an ongoing budget crunch, the legislature allocated \$2.5 million to reopen the training school.

## Boy bitten by shark

**TX** FREEPORT — An 11-year-old Freeport boy who was attacked by a shark remained hospitalized in guarded condition.

The unidentified boy was bitten on the arm and leg by a shark Sunday night at Bryan Beach on the Gulf of Mexico, firefighters said.

The boy's parents took him to a Freeport fire station where emergency officials determined that his injuries probably would require surgery in Houston. Deputy Fire Chief Chris Motley said. He was then flown by helicopter to Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital.

Motley, who is chief of emergency medical services, said the boy had been wade fishing for trout with his family. He was carrying a bag of the day's catch when he was bitten three times — once on the right arm and above and below his right knee.

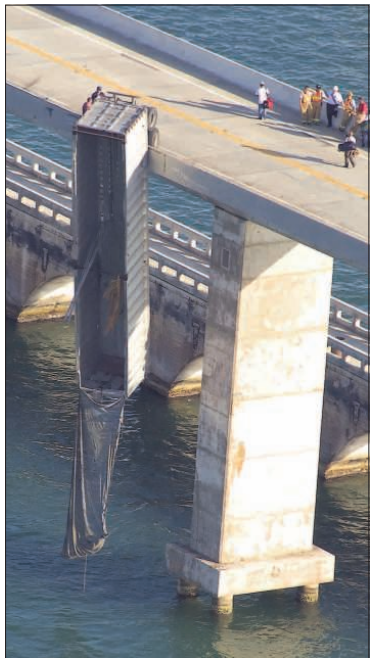
## Court database backlog

**ME** PORTLAND — Judges may not know some defendants' criminal backgrounds when their cases go to court because only 10 percent of Maine's criminal records are entered into the state's computer database. Officials said the backlog in getting criminal records on the state's 2-year-old database may especially endanger domestic violence victims. Almost half of the state's murders are domestic homicides.

## Priest paying for school

**ND** SYKESTON — The Rev. Loudon-Hans Flisk is trying to keep the local school from closing by opening his pocketbook.

The Roman Catholic priest, who is also a member of the school board, has given bonuses to teachers with his own money and offered to pay a Sykeston student not to enroll in another district.



**Holding on by its wheels** A portion of a tractor-trailer dangles off the Channel 2 bridge on the Florida Keys' Overseas Highway, near Islamorada, following an accident with a disabled vehicle. The tractor portion of the rig remained on the bridge. One person was hospitalized.



**Will they do a crawl stroke?** Kemp's ridley sea turtles make their way to the water during a turtle release at the Padre Island National Seashore in Texas. In the largest release of Kemp's ridley sea turtles in Texas history, 349 hatchlings were released.



## What umbrella?

**Two-year-old Jack DiCarantonio, of Doylestown, Pa., enjoys the rainy weather during the city's Youth Arts Thang.**





## A friendly connection

Kyra Mickens, 7, plays Connect Four with friends at The Boys and Girls Club in Hattiesburg, Miss., on a rainy day.



## Double bubble

Sitting next to a bubble made from a raindrop, a frog sits on lily pads in a pond at the Town of Franklin Highway Department in Franklin, N.Y.



## Ring of fire

Firefighter J. Webb prepares to fight an apartment fire, caused by lightning, in Decatur, Ala. No one was injured, although eight to 12 tenants were displaced.



## Sign of respect

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley unveils a new sign in Birmingham, Ala., that will be placed along Interstate 65 between Birmingham and Decatur to designate the roadway the Ronald Reagan Memorial Highway.

## Donkey wins election

**CO** FLORISSANT — No elephants need apply. This unincorporated area on Saturday re-elected Paco Bell, a donkey, as its mayor, and that wasn't even close. Two of the four candidates didn't show up.

It's all part of the 15th annual Heritage Days in the town between Divide and Lake George on Colorado Highway 24. Residents like to poke fun at the political process, and they do it by electing a donkey as mayor. Paco Bell won re-election against two no shows and a white donkey named Birdie. "We had one who was colicky, so he couldn't make it, and another one's trailer broke down, so he couldn't come, either," said organizer Tracie Bennitt.

Volunteers from the Pikes Peak Historical Society supplied Paco Bell's ballot box with donations — ensuring him a second term.

Dagney Hales, 8, and Sam Easto, 7, fed the mayor wild goldendoodle, green stalks with little yellow flowers, and Teller County Sheriff Kevin Dougherty swore in the incumbent.

## Couple devours rivals

**OH** BROOKVILLE — A Nevada couple devoured their competition in the first watermelon-eating contest to be sanctioned by the International Federation of Competitive Eating.

Rich LeFevre won the title of World Watermelon Eating Champion on Saturday after putting down 11.22 pounds at the "Swellin' with Melon" contest. LeFevre's wife, Carlene, took second with 9.78 pounds.

The rules of the contest were simple: eat as much precut seedless watermelon as possible in 15 minutes, and keep it down until after the contest. The competitors — four professional eaters and 12 local entrants — were given trays containing 15 pounds of watermelon.

By the end of the contest, all of the competitors were covered in watermelon juice and had big wet spots on the fronts of their green T-shirts.

Brian Seiken, of New York City, finished third after eating 8.07 pounds of watermelon. He said he prepared by not eating any sugar for a day and a half, and not drinking anything for 12 hours. He said he played basketball before the contest to dehydrate himself even more.

"It was real tough. You had about 12 local eaters that could put away a lot of watermelon. My goal was to not lose to any of the locals," he said.

## City needs officers

**KY** LOUISVILLE — Louisville's police department is facing a 100-officer shortage that's been caused by increased retirements and resignations. Chief Robert White has approved transfers of some officers into districts hardest hit by vacancies. He also received permission to add 10 recruits to next month's academy class of 30.

Union leaders say officers are leaving because they're dissatisfied with the recent merger of the county and city police departments.

## No-fly zone detention

**TX** ARLINGTON — Police detained a family after airport

authorities mistakenly reported their small plane had violated a no-fly zone near President Bush's Crawford ranch. In the confusion, the pilot they were seeking drove away.

Pilot Del Hinton, his wife, daughter and a friend landed at Arlington Municipal Airport about 2 p.m. Saturday after a trip to a casino in Shreveport, La. As soon as Hinton taxied his six-passenger plane into his hangar, an airport employee told him the Secret Service wanted to question him about his illegal flight through Waco.

When Bush is in Crawford, as he was this weekend, airspace is restricted within a 30-mile radius of his ranch.

Hinton's family was detained for an hour. Finally, Hinton telephoned Flight Services to prove his route.

Police eventually learned that the small plane suspected of flying through Waco had landed at the municipal airport about 10 minutes before Hinton.

Police were working to identify that man, who airport employees said was expected to return to the airport Sunday. Sgt. Sharon Warns said the man is not believed to have intentionally violated restricted airspace.

## Government to buy ranch

**MT** HELENA — A 5,636-acre ranch prized for wildlife habitat was sold to a conservation group by two aging siblings who said they want to ensure the property is not subdivided. The Virginia-based Conservation Fund has arranged to sell the McMaster Ranch to the federal government at no increase in price. Bud and Dolly McMaster have no heirs. The family ranch was appraised at \$5.8 million.

## Rubberized roadways

**CA** RIVERSIDE — Some of Southern California's aging roadways are getting 300,000 tons of sound-absorbing pavement called rubberized asphalt. The technology costs more up front, another \$50 a ton, but it could save money because it lasts longer than regular asphalt and requires less maintenance. Advocates say the technology can reduce traffic noise by at least 25 percent.

## Coach killed at game

**MA** BOSTON — Police are investigating the murder of a Boston man fatally shot while coaching a youth basketball game. William Gaines, 23, was sitting on a bench when witnesses said he was shot multiple times in the back by one or two gunmen riding bicycles.

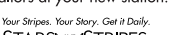
Counseling was provided the children, ages 11 to 15, who witnessed the slaying.

## Library closed for move

**IL** SPRINGFIELD — Officials closed the Illinois State Historical Library to the public so more than 12 million historic items could be moved across the street into the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

The state Historical Library under the Old State Capitol has housed the items since 1889. The move will take about six weeks, officials said.

Stories and photos from wire services



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STARS AND STRIPES

## FACES 'N' PLACES

## Fantasia living the fantasy of 'Idol' life

BY MICHAEL FELBERBAUM  
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

A year ago, she was Fantasia Barrino, underemployed and borrowing money to pay on a one-bedroom apartment, where she spent days playing with her 1-year-old daughter, Zion.

Now, after winning the "American Idol" competition, she has a new \$500,000, 5,000-square-foot home, a new single in stores and a new outlook on life.

And a new name: just "Fantasia."

Her new digs aren't even furnished yet, but the 19-year-old singer invited The Associated Press over recently for a look at the bare walls and hardwood floors. With her puffy, Diva, by her side, Fantasia talked about preparations for three months of touring and her first single, "I Believe," which she first sang during the "Idol" finals and hit U.S. stores in June.

**AP: Did it feel the same to sing "I Believe" in the studio as it did on stage?**

Fantasia: The words of the song are 'Finally, I believe,' and I always tell people that I always believed I would be a singer, and I always wanted to be. I worked hard at it, but I struggled to try to get it and when I heard the words of the song, I was like, 'Whoo, finally I believe.' I really do.

**AP: Any plans for your album yet?**

Fantasia: I want music for everybody. I want music that will encourage people if they are going through something.

**AP: Are you finding it harder to stay yourself?**

Fantasia: Nothing has really changed about me. I'm still the same old girl. I think the only thing that's changed now is that I have money in my pocket and I'm able to do for my family and for my child, and able to share my music with the world.

**AP: Do you have a message for young mothers?**

Fantasia: Just keep your head up because a lot of times when young women have kids, a lot of people seem to down them because you're not married and you're so young and had a child out of wedlock. ... If God forgave me, then you guys can forgive me too. ... If you're a single mom and you have a dream, go after it.

**AP: How would you describe your life so far?**

Fantasia: It was tough trying to get a job, it was tough trying to get money. I borrowed money from people and I don't have to do that no more. When I was crying when I won, I was crying about all that stuff. And I was like 'Gosh, I did it. I borrowed but I

"Even if this movie hadn't done as well, that movie was going to get made, because I think the American people are clamoring to see the HMOs punished."

### Ja Rule in Canadian court

Ja Rule appeared in a Toronto court and was released on \$7,500 bail on an assault charge.

The 28-year-old rapper, whose real name is Jeffrey Atkins, didn't enter a plea Monday on the charge of assault causing bodily harm. He's scheduled to return to Provincial Court on Aug. 30 for a trial date to be set.

There is a court-ordered publication ban on the evidence, although police said earlier the charges stem from an incident at a Toronto nightclub on June 5.

Atkins, of Saddle River, N.J., signed out-of-court agreements for fans outside court before driving away in a tinted car with his lawyer and two bodyguards.

His lawyer, Steven Skurka, said the publication ban was standard procedure to prevent having the trial heard "before a man ever walks into a courtroom."

"It's to protect an accused person from having information released. There's already been false information released about these allegations," Skurka said.

According to his bail conditions, Atkins is not to consume alcohol while in Canada,

don't have to borrow anyone. 'I've been singing for a long time now, since I was 5 years old, trying to get out there, trying to be heard. To me it wasn't all about the money, it was all about being in front of people, and hopefully my music could encourage somebody.

**AP: Your audition in Atlanta almost didn't happen; why?**

Fantasia: We drove all the way to Atlanta with \$20 in our pocket. ... The first day everybody was in the Georgia Dome singing. ... They had karaoke going. ... The next morning they started the auditions and I said, 'I can't sing on an empty stomach.' ... We left and we got back and there were about 25 of us and they wouldn't let us back in. ... I went back to my cousin's house in Atlanta and all of my family kept calling me. And my dad and everybody was saying, 'Maybe you should go back. Just go back, try it one more time.' ... I stood in front of the door and the security guard who heard me sing at the karaoke came to the door and said, 'Did you audition?' And I said, 'No, sir.' And he said, 'Why not?' And I said 'They won't let me back in.' So, he said, 'Oh, I gotta get you in.' He took me by my hand, took me in the building, and I was the last one on the field to audition.

**AP: Where do you see yourself in five, 10 years?**

Fantasia: I want to do everything. I want to do some acting, own my own clothing line, but most of all I want to do some centers around North Carolina, just some teen centers with a lot of stuff to do. ... There's a lot of young people out there on the streets who think that's what life is all about.

Someone asked me, 'Do you think you'll just be around for this, you win the Idol and you do a CD and you're gone?' I said, 'Nope, they're not gonna forget me. I'm not gonna let 'em. I'm gonna get on a cereal box if I have to, with Cap'n Crunch, whatever I have to do.'

**AP: How does your daily life now compare to a year ago?**

Fantasia: I wasn't working. I wasn't doing anything and Zion wasn't in day care. ... I had my own little apartment, and I would do my hair all day, watch movies. ... We would play dress-up. We had nothing to do. ... It's totally different now because I'm working really hard.

**AP: How important is your family to where you are today?**

Fantasia: As long as I had them by my side, and God on my side, I feel like I could do all things.

*"I want music for everybody.  
I want music that will  
encourage people if they are  
going through something."*

Fantasia

2004 'American Idol' winner

### Moore on a film-making roll

The success of "Fahrenheit 9/11" is making Michael Moore's life a bit easier on his next film.

With "Fahrenheit 9/11" becoming the first documentary to cross the \$100 million mark at the domestic box office, director Moore expects a smooth path on raising money to make "Sicko," his critique of health-maintenance organizations.

Moore would not provide details but said financing of his next movie will be in the works, thanks to "Fahrenheit 9/11," which cost just \$6 million to make.

"Clearly, if you make a movie that has this ratio of how much it costs to its gross, you're going to find an easy time making your next film," Moore said in a conference call with reporters over the weekend.

The idea for "Sicko" stems from a segment Moore did on his "The Awful Truth" TV show, in which he staged a mock funeral at an HMO for a patient denied an organ transplant he needed to survive. The HMO relented and paid for the transplant.

Moore, an Academy Award winner for "Bowling for Columbine," said he would have played along with "Sicko" even if "Fahrenheit 9/11" had not given him new commercial clout to raise money.

"I've never let that get in the way, anyway," Moore said.



Moore



Ja Rule

contact the alleged victim and witnesses or be in the downtown entertainment district unless it's for work.

He's been in Toronto often this year while shooting "Assault on Precinct 13." His films also include "Half Past Dead" and "The Fast and the Furious."

### Royal couple make showing

Prince Charles and his companion, Camilla Parker Bowles, stepped out together at a reception celebrating the prince's charitable work.

The couple, whose relationship has grown increasingly open over the last few years, arrived together at St. James's Palace in London for the champagne reception Monday in honor of the Prince of Wales, a charity that helps underprivileged youngsters.

The prince saluted the trust's celebrity "ambassadors" from the worlds of music, drama and fashion, including "Pop Idol" winner Will Young, soul singer Jamelia and Queen guitarist Brian May.

Charles and Camilla, both of whom are divorced, have been cautious about launching their relationship in public since the death of Princess Diana in 1997. Parker Bowles has been increasingly seen at the prince's side, but joint appearances at official functions have been few — because their relationship has not been formalized

and out of deference to Charles's mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

### Faulkner fans gather

Hundreds of William Faulkner enthusiasts are in Oxford, Miss., this week studying how the Nobel laureate gave significance to everyday objects in his complex novels and short stories.

"Faulkner was a shrewd observer of the meaning of things, an anthropologist of sorts," lecturer T.J. Jackson Lears, a Rutgers University history professor, said during Sunday's opening session of the 31st Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conference.

Lears said Faulkner dissected "status in stuff," noting the profound social guilt between people who put things on a pedestal and people who had few possessions.

Clothing, to Faulkner, embodied social standing. With a change of outfits, country people could imagine and temporarily escape from their social station.

Claude Pruitt, a graduate student in humanities at the University of Texas-Dallas, was among the more than 100 participants in the workshop.

"You don't study American literature without going through Faulkner," said Pruitt, who's visiting Mississippi for the first time. "I'm already finding it informative."

Conference participants will have a picnic on the grounds of Faulkner's home, Rowan Oak. They'll also take guided tours of northeast Mississippi.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press.





## OPINION

## Panerwise to avoid playing 9/11 blame game

**A**fter so much partisan rancor on the subject, it is pleasant to note that the 9/11 commission report was unanimous in betraying no signs of internecine warfare, sensible and, in some instances, containing some notably sobering revelations.

Philip Terzian



The Bush administration, which had been prepared for a hit on the eve of the Democratic National Convention, should feel relieved. While the commission is critical of federal policies and practices, it recognizes one obvious truth: that if any "blame" attaches to officials in government, it can fairly be assigned to all of them.

Both the Bush and Clinton white houses failed to grasp the magnitude of the danger posed by al-Qaida. If Bush missed gathering signals in the summer of 2001, Clinton brushed off cataclysmic events in the 1990s.

Yet their failure was a failure (in the panel's word) of imagination, not indolence or deception. While everyone recognized that al-Qaida was lethal, and that terrorist attacks are possible, no one could foresee Osama bin Laden's audacious plan. As with so many comparable challenges in history, it took a catastrophe to concentrate our attention.

So now what? To begin with, the panel reiterates what should be common knowledge: that the war against terrorism is serious business, and that the threat to the United States (and our allies) is palpable.

The problem is that the sense of national resolve in the wake of 9/11 has dissipated. That is partly the fault of President Bush, who has issued mixed signals of defiance

and undue confidence; but is largely caused by the passage of time, the absence of subsequent domestic attacks and politics as usual. Success, in that sense, has bred complacency.

Michael Moore's popular movie posits the idea that the war on terrorism is largely an invention to benefit the business interests of the Bush family, its corporate friends and Saudi allies. But instead of turning away from Moore in horror, the Democrats, sensing opportunity, have embraced his cynical showmanship. Anybody whose hatred of George W. Bush prompts them to deplore the destruction of the Taliban — which, among other things, harbored Osama bin Laden — should ponder their priorities. The commission warns against this dangerous tendency: Accusing political opponents of bad faith will only benefit the genuine bad guys.

Can reforms make any difference? It is possible. White House initiatives, such as creation of a Department of Homeland Security and the much-maligned Patriot Act, have closed any number of perilous loopholes and have made the terrorists' work more difficult.

It is difficult to see the extent to which intelligence agencies had inklings of al-Qaida's plans. Yet even if those inklings had led to certainty, and the series of dots had been connected, the panel's conclusion is noteworthy: In the pre-9/11 world, the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon could not have been prevented.

For the panelists, the solution to this bureaucratic impasse is simple: Combine all intelligence-gathering under one umbrella, presided over by a Cabinet-level director of national intelligence. This is consistent with the history of government reform, but it's no guarantee of success. Scoping disparate services and agencies into one big hot fudge sundae has the virtue of "consolidation" and efficiency. But that is precisely what was



done in 1947 when the Central Intelligence Agency was created. The problem that made 9/11 possible — the legislative wall that prevents sharing of foreign and domestic intelligence — is the knot to be untied. Concerns about J. Edgar Hoover's conduct in the 1960s gave al-Qaida the opening it needed in 2001.

Which leads, as it must, to a fundamental question: How can we fight a war against terrorism and remain consistent with democratic values? The Bush administration has grappled with this conundrum, with mixed success. It has not been assisted by a political opposition that confuses defending the national security with deliberate assaults on constitutional rights. And no matter who is president next year, the challenge of fighting a

clandestine enemy isn't easy for an open society of nearly 300 million people. Every American wants life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and absolute safety from terrorists eager to sacrifice themselves.

One self-evident course, as the panel recommends, is to pursue policies that undermine the origins of terrorism: to fight the ideas and conditions that give rise to anti-Americanism, and to promote the values of education and democracy as a practical alternative to radical violence.

But the 9/11 commission has an equally important message. There is no mistaking the nature of the struggle: a clash of ideals, and a military threat, as serious and sobering as the crater at Ground Zero.

Philip Terzian is a columnist for The Providence (R.I.) Journal.

## Olympic planners have taken Munich lessons to heart

Chicago Tribune

**M**uch of the lead-up to the Summer Olympics in Athens has focused on the supposed inability of Greece to get its act together. Typical were the comments of British anti-terrorist consultants training journalists for the Games, who warned the sportsworkers to prepare for the worst, because "Greek and security don't really go in the same sentence."

Ever since Munich in 1972, when 11 Israelis died at the hands of Palestinian terrorists, the Olympics have occasioned military preparations to fight a small war. In the wake of Sept. 11, concerns about terrorism at the Olympics have only grown. Greece is spending a record \$1.5 billion on security for the summer Games, and it still can't get any respect.

How far the world has traveled in 32 years. In the Munich Games, Germany saw an opportunity to bury its Nazi past. Any suggestion of a police state was strictly forbidden.

Spending on security was a pittance. Athletes who sneaked out of their compound for a night on the town merely hopped back over the wall when the time came to sneak back in.

That's how the Palestinians who targeted the Israeli team got inside, supposedly assisted by Americans who mistook them for fellow athletes. The terrorists shot two hostages at the start of a prolonged standoff, and the rest of the hostages and five of the eight terrorists died later amid a firefight with German police.

No question, the Olympics in Greece present an inviting target for terrorists seeking a world stage. Yet there is also the risk that an event dedicated to bringing the world together through sportsmanship can lose its meaning if martial law prevails over it.

The much-maligned Greeks just may get the balance right. Months ago, the Congressional Research Service concluded that the Greeks were indeed taking their security obligations seriously. They plan to deploy 50,000 soldiers and police. Overcoming sovereignty concerns, they have worked closely with the United States and other high-risk nations.

The Greeks will allow 400 armed U.S. servicemen to watch over the Games, under the auspices of NATO. This extraordinary concession should go a long way to relieve anxieties about Greek preparedness.

So far, though, it appears that the troops will protect only diplomats and VIPs. Apparently there is still a question as to whether U.S. troops will guard the American athletes while they're in Greece. If that's the U.S. demand, Greece should recognize that those athletes represent too highly symbolic a target to take any risks with their safety.

The United States, in turn, would be wise to recognize that it doesn't want its security forces to provoke an unnecessary incident.

It should school its troops in Greek language and customs. In Athens, boisterous street demonstrations occur routinely. Motor scooter drivers steer onto the sidewalks to evade traffic.

The threat of terrorism has, unfortunately, already made an impact on these Games, from the extraordinary cost for security to the apparent reluctance of many tourists to attend the Games in person.

But the Games will go on, and Greece, the United States and other nations will have the chance to show that such an event can be staged safely, without turning the sporting fields into something that resembles a battlefield.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



# Horoscope

The sun and Venus are in a trying position that could cause some insecurity to rise up in us, especially on the topic of love. You may even have paranoid thoughts about the reasons someone loves you or the motivation people have for getting close to you. Finances could also suffer from a bout of doubt. Use your logical mind to get centered.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 29).** Show the world what you've got! You're well received this year, and you'll find many ways to use your talents. Singles meet prospects in August and start a relationship with a real future. More luck has to do with trying something new in September. If you properly educate yourself, you can't lose. Cancer and Pisces are fabulous love prospects.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19).

There's much to keep straight, and you've got the logical mind to maintain order. But don't be so fixated on practical matters that you lose your joy and creativity — without those, almost everything you do is in fact impractical.

## Taurus (April 20-May 20).

You're a bit like the goose that lays golden eggs now, and you could find that many people would love to "steal" your away. Beware of people who are only interested in what you can do for them and aren't interested in giving back.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** It's a complex web you weave, Gemini. Forget about the bottom-line results now because there are so many contributing factors that it's impossible to make an accurate projection. Go by how you feel.

## Cancer (June 22-July 22).

You go out of your way to get that feel of love and acceptance. Once you're convinced that this basic need is met, you thrive. Being able to rid yourself of nagging worries is key. Most of what you fear is unreal anyway.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** It's a productive day. Being around hard-working people will make you more productive than ever. Your

competitive instinct is fierce. You rise to the level of your competition, even if you have no idea what you're doing.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You've got major mojo, which you can use to influence an impossible situation. On days like this, just postulating is enough to make it so — imagine you're like the rainmaker who achieves by being in harmony with the elements.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Nothing stresses you out. You're able to use your sense of humor to turn every snafu into an entertaining story for your friends. You've got tons of these these days. Keep 'em laughing.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

You're not as interested in self-improvement as you are in allowing others to improve you — after all, why not leave it to the professionals? Gather opinions, and have a blast re-creating yourself inside and out.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

There's luck in the realm of politics. You are in a position to take a stand, and many will listen — you've got real presence, poise, and an interesting take on the same old message. Romance develops at lightning speed.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

The only way to make progress is to first get organized. Haphazard piles, unsorted files and silly clutter can be sorted through completely by tomorrow if you just do it. When it gets difficult, enlist a friend.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Surprises cause you to act quickly, and you can be sure your destiny is being fulfilled. Approach new relationship with caution. The first 15 minutes determine how the rest of it will go. Tonight, you've got the healing touch.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

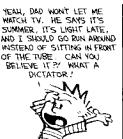
If you find yourself waiting around for someone to call you back, get busy. The more you can do to prove to yourself that you don't need someone, the more they'll feel drawn to you. Pop culture influences your work.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillion



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



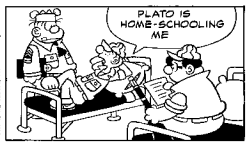
Cathy



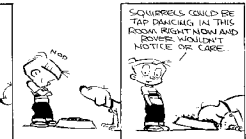
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



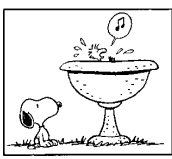
Red Rover



Better or Worse



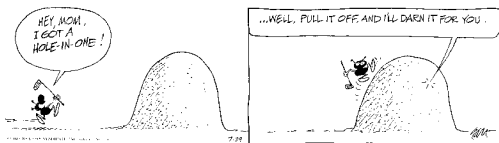
Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



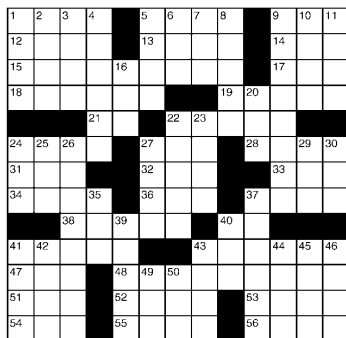
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



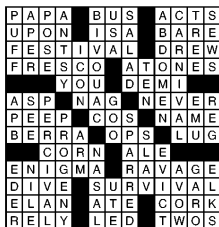
## Across

- 1 Factor in Einstein's equation
- 5 Pack down
- 9 Possesses
- 12 1999 Tom Petty album
- 13 Bread spread
- 14 Falstaff's quencer
- 15 Dairy purchase
- 17 "— and Order"
- 18 Ed Norton's workplace
- 19 Spritlike
- 21 Atom
- 22 Pentateuch
- 24 Doe or Bull
- 27 Handle roughly
- 28 Blunder
- 31 In the style of
- 32 Earlier than
- 33 One (Pref.)
- 34 Shri! bark
- 36 Put in with
- 37 "Jurassic Park" critter
- 38 Persnickety
- 40 Smart remark?
- 41 Phi Beta —
- 43 Easily assembled
- 47 Inventor Whitney
- 48 Staff symbol
- 51 47-Across' invention
- 52 Modern-day money
- 53 Jog

## Down

- 1 Stable area
- 2 Rue the run
- 3 Third place, at Pimlico
- 4 Grave
- 5 — River, N.J.
- 6 Will Smith biopic
- 7 Torme or Tillis
- 8 Texas Hold 'Em, e.g.
- 9 Thirty minutes
- 10 Jai follower
- 11 Mended
- 16 Pitching stat
- 20 Trail the pack
- 22 Off schedule
- 23 Unpaid
- 24 Comic Leno
- 25 Bullring bravo
- 26 Diminutive
- 27 Pod denizens
- 29 Inseparable
- 30 Make like new
- 35 Litter member
- 37 Score
- 39 Created dust?
- 40 Raw rock
- 41 Frat party items
- 42 Sam Shepard's "— of the Mind"
- 43 Story line
- 44 — song (cheaply)
- 45 Teeny bit
- 46 Plays the lottery
- 49 Shade
- 50 Ball

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



7-29

## CRYPTOQUIP

MQY UCA OMUZLJ UCA  
NCL'K LYNN VYGX XAKKZLJ  
CL UCAQ SMLFU FGCKVYO?

OAZK UCAQOYGS!  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOUR CHOICES ARE TO MEDITATE OR TAKE A DIP IN THE POOL. SO WILL YOU THINK OR SWIM?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals S







# Rod Woodson, Mobley cut after failing physicals

The Associated Press

Rod Woodson and John Mobley are looking for work.

The Oakland Raiders released Woodson on Tuesday after the 11-time Pro Bowl defensive back failed his physical, and the Denver Broncos cut Mobley after the former All-Pro linebacker also flunked a physical.

The 39-year-old Woodson made the Pro Bowl at three positions — cornerback, safety and left returner. He had a chronic left knee injury, finished last season on injured reserve and had surgery in December.

Woodson had said he'd like to return to the Raiders this season and doesn't want to end his 17-year career in injury.

Woodson is one of the greatest defensive backs to ever play the game, Raiders coach Norv Turner said. "He has been a leader on and off the field."

Woodson played 11 seasons for Pittsburgh, one for San Francisco, four with Baltimore — helping the Ravens win the 2001 Super Bowl — and two for the Raiders. He was voted to the NFL's 75th anniversary team and the all-decade team for the NFL's 100th anniversary.

Woodson is third on the NFL's career list with 71 interceptions. His 1,483 yards on interception returns are the most in NFL history.

The 31-year-old Mobley injured his right knee last season. He and the Broncos are hoping he can return once the injury heals.

## NFL briefs

"You have to release him to get down to the maximum number of players you can have on the team," coach Mike Shanahan said. "It doesn't mean we don't want John Mobley back on our football team. If six months to a year from now he feels like he is ready to go, then we will assess him then."

## Lions sign top draft picks RB Jones, LB Lehman

**Detroit** — First-round pick Kevin Jones agreed to a five-year contract with the Detroit Lions on Wednesday, ensuring the team's running back of the future will be in training camp on time.

Linebacker Teddy Lehman, the Detroit Lions' second-round pick, who earlier had agreed to terms with the team, signed a four-year deal on Wednesday.

Jones, the 30th overall choice in the draft, was the Lions' second overall pick in the first round. Wide receiver Roy Williams, taken seventh overall, remains unsigned.

## Top pick of Eagles, Falcons reach contract terms

Philadelphia and Atlanta signed first-round picks. Former Arkansas offensive lineman Shawn Andrews — No. 16 pick — agreed to a six-year contract with the Eagles, and former

Ohio State receiver Michael Jenkins — the No. 28 pick — signed with the Falcons.

Andrews, who will compete for the starting spot at right guard, was a finalist for the Lombardi Award (top lineman) and the Outland Trophy (best interior lineman) in 2003.

Terms of his contract weren't immediately known.

Listed at 6 feet 4, 340 pounds, Andrews weighed as much as 401 pounds during his college career. He allowed just two sacks in 35 games.

Jenkins, one of Atlanta's two first-round draft choices, reached a multiyear agreement with the Falcons on Tuesday night.

With the Ohio State star in the fold, only cornerback DeAngelo Hall, the eighth overall pick from Virginia Tech, remains to be signed.

## Vikings sign WWE star Lesnar

**MINNEAPOLIS** — Brock Lesnar is hoping to become the next big thing for the Minnesota Vikings.

Better known to World Wrestling Entertainment fans as "The Next Big Thing," Lesnar signed a contract with the Vikings on Tuesday.

The former NCAA heavyweight wrestling champion from Minnesota wants to win a spot on the defensive line. At 6 feet 3 and 286 pounds, the 27-year-old Lesnar has not played football since



Eagles top pick Shawn Andrews, right, works a drill with Dante Ellington during training camp after reaching terms on a contract Tuesday.

his senior year of high school in South Dakota.

"He's very serious about this," said Lesnar's agent, Ed Hitchcock. "He worked out today and [coach] Mike Tice said he wanted to sign him."

Lesnar retired from the WWE in March. In April, he sustained a pulled groin, bruised pelvis, broken jaw and broken left hand in a motorcycle accident.

## Beuerlein retires as a Panther

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** — Steve Beuerlein, who holds every passing record in Carolina history, retired Wednesday as a Panther.

Beuerlein spent his last three seasons in Denver, but the Broncos released him in May to give him time to decide if he wanted to play an 18th season in the league.

When the 39-year-old decided he would retire, he called Carolina, where he spent his best seasons as a pro. Beuerlein was with the Panthers from 1996 to 2000, and went to the Pro Bowl in 1999

after passing for 4,436 yards and 36 touchdowns.

"This in my mind was the way it was meant to be," he said. "I couldn't think of a better way to bring this 17-year run to an end. My heart has always been here with this organization and when I sat back and decided I wanted to step down, there was no doubt I wanted to do it as a Carolina Panther."

## Cowboys release Hutchinson

**IRVING, Texas** — The Dallas Cowboys waived Chad Hutchinson on Tuesday, ending their attempt to turn the former major league pitcher into a starting quarterback.

The team also said back surgery on safety Darren Woodson went well. Woodson had a herniated disc removed from his lower back.

He's expected to be out up to eight weeks, which would run through the second game of the season, although the team is optimistic he could return sooner.

# Stripes: Having Kitna back as tutor eases transition

STRIPES FROM BACK PAGE

"Sometimes when you're young, more bad things happen than good," Palmer said, in an interview from his home in California.

Palmer will get most of the snaps in camp and play more than usual in preseason games, so he can get his timing with the offense. Maybe he can get some of those rookie mistakes out of the way early.

Levis isn't about to make the infamous mistake that one of his predecessors made four years ago.

Heading into the 2000 season, coach Bruce Coslet told everyone that the Bengals would go only as far as inexperienced quarterback Akili Smith could take them. It was a short ride.

Smith couldn't handle the transition, Coslet quit after an 0-3 start and the Bengals had yet another dismal year. Smith never got a full season to prove himself and never panned out.

Levis is taking the opposite approach with his young passer, making sure not to apply any such pressure.

"That's the last thing Marvin would say," Palmer said. "I'm a

smart enough guy to know that I'm not going to take this team anywhere. I have plenty of playmakers to get the ball to. I don't need a need to carry this team on my shoulders."

If Palmer can just take it slow and limit the mistakes, Levis figures the Bengals can hold their own despite a tough schedule that includes a Monday night appearance against the Denver Broncos.

If not, he can turn to Kitna. "If one position causes us to lose games, we'll make a change," Levis said.

Palmer has one uncommon asset. Kitna agreed to restructure his contract so he could stay on as the backup, tutoring Palmer as he learns to play. Kitna was the team's leader last season, and his support for the move will go a long way in the locker room.

The two have talked frequently in the season.

"He's awesome," Palmer said. "He's a classy guy who doesn't like to take the spotlight away or complain. He realizes his role, accepts it and tries to make the people around him better. There aren't many guys in this league like him."

From now on, the Bengals hope they're saying the same thing about Palmer.

# Kickman aboard for Rams

By R.B. FALLSTROM

The Associated Press

**MACOMB, Ill.** — Steven Jackson took the bus to work on Tuesday.

The St. Louis Rams first-round pick, criticized by his coach earlier this month after missing a rookie minicamp, showed up for training camp on the bus ridden by all the Rams first-year players.

Jackson, who signed a five-year, \$7 million contract on Sunday, and the rest of his fellow rookies arrived around 2:30 in the afternoon. They were well ahead of the 5 p.m. deadline that previous first-rounders tended to cut a lot closer, often showing up in shiny new vehicles.

"I'm a rookie," Jackson said with a laugh. "When I told my agent I was going to ride the bus he had the same response. He was 'You're going to ride the bus.' But I just wanted to get up there."

That was a good sign for coach Mike Martz, who reiterated that jobs must be won regardless of draft position. The two-day workouts began Wednesday. Jackson begins training camp fourth on the depth chart at tailback behind Marshall Faulk, Lamar Gordon and even Arden Harris, who's being converted to fullback.

"Steven's like every other rookie," Martz said. "Whatever you

get, you earn. That's what this league is all about, and there was a misconception that he was going to come in and play right away because he's Steven Jackson."

Jackson is considered the heir apparent to Faulk, who is 31 years old and entering his 12th NFL season. Faulk will participate in only the afternoon practice of two-a-days, along with veteran safety Aeneas Williams, giving Jackson plenty of opportunity to carry the ball in training camp.

"This is a very competitive league, and he needs to come in and compete," Martz said. "Steven was exactly that."

Jackson had another reason for taking the rookie bus: He didn't want to risk getting lost on the winding three-plus hour drive, often on two-lane roads, to training camp.

"I've caused enough trouble over the last week," Jackson said. "That would be a little more news for you guys. So I figured I'd hop on the bus and it would be easier for me."

Jackson didn't appear overly concerned about Martz's criticism.

He wasn't at the camp because he had not signed a contract.

"Coaches want to set the tone," he said. "I think he was trying to play a little mind game with me. I

understand where he was coming from, but hopefully he understood where I was coming from."

Jackson helped that riding the bus would help mend fences.

"We'll see what the marriage looks like," he said.

The only expected no-show for the start of camp was holdout offensive tackle Orlando Pace, designated by the Rams as their franchise player. Pace also was the franchise player last year and missed all of training camp.

"When Big O gets here, we'll love him to death," Martz said. "It's hard for coaches, but it's what it is, we're not going to change it and why worry about it. When he gets here we'll embrace him, and line him up and let's go."

The Rams are restricting defensive end Leonard Little, who faces a felony charge of persistent drunken driving in St. Louis County, to one group interview session per week on football issues only.

Little pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter in an alcohol-related wreck that killed a St. Louis woman in 1998.

"I think it's just fair to Leonard," Martz said. "Otherwise he'll just get hounded on some things. We don't want to make sure everybody understands the guidelines, that everything is pertinent to football."



# Yanks' power play jolts Jays

## Sheffield's 400th one of four HRs in N.Y.'s 7-4 win

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Gary Sheffield's 400th career home run helped the New York Yankees overcome the loss of another thirty-something starter.

This time Orlando Hernandez left with a hamstring injury, but the Yankees hit four homers — including Jorge Posada's three-run shot in the eighth — to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 7-4 on Tuesday night.

Hernandez, 38, on the disabled list all last season with Montreal, was making his fourth start for the Yankees because Kevin Brown, 39, and Mike Mussina, 35, are on the disabled list.

Also, spot starter Tanyon Sturtze, 34, injured his right pinky in the brawl with Boston on Saturday and will miss his next scheduled outing.

"I don't even want to think about it. We've been lucky," manager Joe Torre said. "There's not a whole lot of skilled involved. We've been able to dance around this thing right now, but you certainly don't want to make a living doing that."

The Yankees kept winning, though, thanks mostly to home runs.

On Tuesday, Alex Rodriguez homered on his 29th birthday and Bernie Williams also connected to help New York push its major league-leading homer total to 153. Sheffield's homer in the ninth made it 7-2.

"This means everything because I never thought I'd reach 400 home runs," Sheffield said. "I was just hoping to get 100. When I came in the league they told me I'd be a speed guy. I'm thrilled to reach to get this milestone."

Hernandez did not come out



Yankees pitcher Orlando Hernandez, above, left Tuesday's game after the second inning with tightness in his left hamstring. Starting Kevin Brown and Mike Mussina are already on the disabled list.

for the third inning because of tightness in his left hamstring.

"I didn't feel it before the game, but in the second inning I felt it," Hernandez said. "I wanted to keep pitching but the manager said no."

El Duque thinks he'll be able to make his next start.

After being held to two hits by former teammate Ted Lilly and Kevin Frederick for seven innings, the Yankees scored four runs in the eighth.

New York loaded the bases against Kerry Ligtenberg (1-3). Justin Speier relieved and Rodriguez hit a sacrifice fly to tie it 2-2.

Posada followed with his 13th homer of the season, a night after hitting a grand slam.

Scott Proctor (1-0), the fifth of six Yankees pitchers, got two outs for his first major league victory, and Tom Gordon worked 1½ in-

nings for his third save despite allowing two runs in the ninth.

In other AL games Tuesday:

**Angels 2, Rangers 0:** Bartolo Colon combined with two relievers on a one-hitter. Jose Guillen and Robb Quinlan had RBIs and the host Angels won after the teams scuffled during batting practice.

Colon (9-8) pitched seven innings of one-hit ball, and Troy Percival got his 299th career save.

The Rangers' Nick Reigillo, making his first major league start, allowed two runs on five hits.

Before the game, a fight broke out between Angels second baseman Adam Kennedy and Rangers catcher Gerald Laird, a carry-over from their dispute the previous night.

Laird thought Kennedy intentionally tried to get hit by a pitch with the bases loaded and two outs in the second inning of Texas' 6-1 victory Monday night, and said something to Kennedy when he came up in the fifth.

Kennedy was standing behind the batting cage Tuesday and was approached by Laird and the Angels were concluding batting practice and the Rangers were finishing their pregame stretching. Moments later, the two were in a tussle that spilled over to the warning track between home plate and the first base dugout.

Soon every player from each team was involved, with players pushing, shoving and grabbing each other before order was restored four minutes later.

**Athletics 5, Mariners 3:** Bobby Crosby and Eric Chavez hom-



Anaheim catcher Jose Molina drops a pop-up hit on Tuesday night by Texas third baseman Hank Blalock, who reached first base on the play.

ered, Mark Redman (7-8) won for the first time in six starts and the Athletics handed Seattle its 14th straight road loss, matching a club record.

**Indians 10, Tigers 6:** Coco Crisp, a late addition to the line-up, had his first career grand slam and drove in a career-high five runs for the host Indians.

Crisp hit his slam in the second inning off Gary Knotts (5-6) and added a RBI single in the fifth. He also saved at least one run with a leaping catch against the left-field wall.

**Devil Rays 6, Royals 2:** At St. Petersburg, Fla., Rocco Baldelli had an RBI double off losing pitcher Darrell May (7-11) and threw a runner out at the plate to help Tampa Bay end a six-game losing streak.

**Twins 7, White Sox 3:** Johan Santana (9-6) pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning and surprising Minnesota beat the White Sox

in Chicago to take a 2½-game lead in the AL Central.

Cristian Guzman had three hits, including a pair of doubles, and Corey Koskie was hit by a pitch three times to tie a major league record as the Twins won for the ninth time in 11 games.

Carlos Lee homered twice for Chicago. Freddy Garcia (8-9) gave up seven hits and four runs in 7½ innings.

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# Test results expected soon on ailing Giambi

The Associated Press

TORONTO — The New York Yankees will have to wait a little longer for test results that could explain why slugger Jason Giambi has been feeling weak.

Giambi has felt fatigued since early June because of an intestinal parasite. He was expected to receive test results Tuesday while meeting with Dr. Scott Hammer, an infectious disease specialist at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York.

But manager Joe Torre said the team won't know more about Giambi's status until later this week.

"It was told it's going to be a couple of days before they have everything they need," Torre said after Tuesday night's 7-4 victory over Toronto.

Torre spoke with General Manager Brian Cashman.

"Brian said we're going to have to wait for all the information before we make a decision," Torre said.

On Monday, Giambi played down a report that he was being checked for a parasite that can cause a potentially fatal condition.

"We're not in a third-world country, so we have medication," he said.

Giambi's trainer, Bob Alejo, told the Newark Star-Ledger that the All-Star first baseman is being tested for a dangerous parasite called *entamoeba histolytica*.

The 33-year-old Giambi has missed six of New York's past seven games, including Tuesday night. He is hitting .221 with 11 homers and 36 RBIs. The 2000 AL MVP, who did not start in eight straight games from June 26 to July 4 because of the parasite, is hitless in his past 21 at-bats.

Tony Clark again started in Giambi's place at first base Tuesday night. Giambi is not expected to return to Toronto on Wednesday.

"Brian doesn't feel like doing anything," Torre said. "It's not that he doesn't want to, it's just that he doesn't feel like it."

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# Maddux eyeing milestone after 299th win

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Greg Maddux has always relied on efficiency. He's not won any time closing in on 300 wins, either.

The Chicago Cubs right-hander won his third consecutive start Tuesday night, earning career win No. 299 with a 7-1 victory in Milwaukee.



Maddux

Kee, who began his career with the Cubs in 1986 and rejoined them last offseason, will try to become the 22nd major league pitcher to win 300 games when he faces the Phillies at Wrigley Field on Sunday.

"That would be great, to hopefully win 300 where he started," Chicago manager Dusty Baker said.

The 38-year-old Maddux would be the first National League to accomplish the feat since Philadelphia's Steve Carlton on Sept. 23, 1983.

Maddux (10-7) needed only 79

pitches to get through six innings against the slumping Brewers, allowing one run and four hits. He struck out six and walked one in a game that lasted just 2 hours, 30 minutes.

But he shied away from the attention that will accompany his attempt to join the exclusive club.

"It's not about me. It's about us doing what we can to get into the postseason," Maddux said. "Let's just stay focused on what we have to do to win. The last thing that I want to be is just any kind of distraction."

Summy Sosa hit his 21st homer and doubled in a run for Chicago.

Todd Walker also connected off Ben Sheets (9-8), who has received just one run of support from the Brewers' feeble offense in losing three straight.

Milwaukee extended its slump with runners in scoring position to 3-for-38 over the last eight games, including seven losses. The Brewers were 0-for-3 Tuesday night.

"For me, an offensive slump is kind of like the flu," manager Ned Yost said. "It's miserable while you're going through it, but sooner or later you get over it."

## NL Roundup

Maddux, 9-2 in his career against Milwaukee, got into trouble just once, when he loaded the bases in the first. But he got Brady Clark looking at strike three to end the inning.

Russell Branyan, acquired from Cleveland on Monday, sent Maddux's only big mistake 480 feet to a solo homer in the sixth.

**Giants 6, Padres 4:** Jason Schmidt (13-3) recovered from his worst outing of the season and pitched eight solid innings for the Giants in San Diego.

Dustin Mohr went 3-for-3 with a two-run homer for San Francisco, which ended a six-game skid against the Padres. Barry Bonds led a two-run double in the first off David Wells (6-6).

Matt Herges escaped a bases-loaded, none-out jam in the ninth for his 23rd save.

**Rockies 7, Dodgers 2:** Aaron Cook (5-4) pitched into the eighth inning for his first home win in a year, and Jeremy Burnitz homered for the fifth straight home

game and drove in four runs.

Todd Helton and Todd Greene also connected for the Rockies, who ended Los Angeles' run of nine consecutive road wins — its longest losing streak in 34 years. Odalis Perez (4-4) took the loss.

**Pirates 8, Braves 4:** Rob Mackowiak came around to score on a bizarre, bases-loaded double when Atlanta catcher Johnny Estrada made two errors on one play, and the Pirates rallied with a five-run seventh inning.

The comeback — Pittsburgh once trailed 3-0 — was the Pirates' third in four days at home and their 15th victory in their last 17 home games.

Atlanta's four-game winning streak ended along with J.D. Drew's 22-game hitting streak.

**Marlins 5, Phillies 2:** Mike Lowell hit a tiebreaking homer off Rheal Cormier (4-4) in the eighth inning. Miguel Cabrera had a two-run double and the Marlins set a franchise record for consecutive home victories against one opponent.

Philadelphia has lost 12 consecutive games in Miami, including five this year. Florida improved

to 9-1 against the Phillies this season and has won 21 of the past 24 meetings dated to last year.

Carl Pavano (11-4) allowed two runs in eight innings.

**Cardinals 6, Reds 0:** At Cincinnati, Jason Marquis (11-4) pitched seven strong innings and hit a two-run double in his eighth straight win. Jim Edmonds and Reggie Sanders homered off Cory Lidle (6-9). Marquis hasn't lost since May 26, going 8-0 with two no-decisions and a 20 ERA.

**Astros 10, Diamondbacks 3:** Adam Everett hit two of the Astros' season-high four homers, and Roy Oswalt (10-8) pitched two-hit ball for seven shutout innings. Jeff Bagwell had a three-run homer and Jeff Kent a two-run shot against visiting Arizona, which snapped a 14-game losing streak Monday night.

**Mets 4, Expos 2:** Tom Glavine (8-8) got his first win since June 13. Mike Cameron hit a three-run homer off Zach Day (5-10) and New York ended its four-game losing streak with a victory at Olympic Stadium. Brad Wilkerson had a career-high four hits for the Expos, who had won a season-high five straight.

## Pirates' Benson expects trade in next few days

By ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Pirates right-hander Kris Benson is going about his normal off-day routine, preparing for his next scheduled start Saturday.

The only question is what uniform he'll be wearing.

"Wherever it is, I'm preparing to pitch Saturday," Benson said.

Facing the Saturday deadline for trading without waivers, Pirates General Manager Dave Littlefield is sorting out offers and possible interest in perhaps the best starting pitcher available not named Randy Johnson.

Littlefield said keeping Benson is an option, but that doesn't seem realistic because Benson (8-4, 4.22 ERA) is unsigned past this season and probably will command much more money as a free agent than the Pirates can afford.

Despite the Pirates' improved play — they've won nine of 12 and 21 of 28 — Littlefield said they still have too many holes to fill short-term from a farm system. That also signals that a trade is almost a certainty.

"There are a lot of factors involved... If we do something, we've got to get pieces that make sense. There are only certain teams we fit with, and it's hard to say if it's going to be Tuesday or Saturday or if it's not going to happen," Littlefield said Tuesday before the Pirates' 8-4 victory over Atlanta.

Littlefield could choose to wait until the weekend, hoping that would increase the pressure on those contenders who haven't added pitching for the stretch drive. Conversely, he risks losing a player he might covet should a team lose patience and make another trade before Saturday.

Also, the Pirates don't have a pressing need financially to make a trade, as they did when they were forced to trade third baseman Aramis Ramirez and outfielder Kenny Lofton to Cubs a year ago.

Littlefield has declined to discuss specifics, although it is known that the Minnesota Twins, Anaheim Angels and New York Mets are interested in



AP

**Pirates starting pitcher Kris Benson heads for the dugout after the first spring against the Atlanta Braves on Monday in Pittsburgh. Benson will likely be in a new uniform when he pitches again.**

Benson. Several days ago, the Twins told slumping first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz to expect a trade, and he would fill the Pirates' need for a corner infielder.

Mientkiewicz, 30, is hitting .238 with five homers and 23 RBIs, but has hit above .300 two of the last three seasons. He has long interested the Pirates, who see him up close during the teams' frequent spring training matchups.

Mientkiewicz's best season was 2001, when he hit .306 with 15 homers and 74 RBIs.

Because Benson could be a rent-a-player — there is no assurance he will stay with the team that lands him — the Pirates aren't likely to get as much back as they did from San Diego for outfielder Brian Giles. He was signed for an additional two seasons, thus increasing his market value when the Pirates dealt him in August.

But the Pirates still want a position player and another player who is close to being major league-ready for Benson, even if that prospect isn't as talented as left-hander Oliver Perez or outfielder Jason Bay, who were acquired for Giles.

"We do lack some position player options and at first base and third base, we don't have long-term options," Littlefield said.

"If we're going to do something, getting a position player makes sense."

For now, Benson can only wait. "Looking around [Monday night], I knew it would be the last time I'd be with my teammates in the home dugout," Benson said.

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## A's move 1B Karros off roster

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Oakland Athletics designated first baseman Eric Karros for assignment on Tuesday.

The A's also activated left-hander Chris Hammond from the 15-day disabled list. He's been out since June 12 with a strained left shoulder.

Oakland has 10 days to trade Karros, release him or assign him outright to the minors.

The 36-year-old Karros struggled in his first season with the A's, batting .194 with two homers and 11 RBIs while starting just 24 games. The 14-year veteran signed with Oakland in February after 12 seasons in Los Angeles and one season with the Chicago Cubs.

### Brewers sign LHP Davis to two-year, \$6M extension

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee Brewers signed left-handed pitcher Doug Davis to a two-year contract extension Tuesday that could be worth up to \$5.95 million.

Davis, who is 9-9 with a 3.99 ERA this season, is making \$450,000 this year after missing arbitration eligibility by a single day last winter.

The 28-year-old Davis leads the NL with 22 starts and has never missed a start in either the major or minor leagues.

### Phillies' Madson placed on DL

MILAMI — Philadelphia Phillies reliever Ryan Madson was placed on the 15-day disabled list Tuesday with a sprained right pinkie, the latest injury for the team's beleaguered pitching staff.

The Phillies are also without closer Billy Wagner, sidelined since Wednesday with soreness in his left shoulder; right-hander Amaury Telemaco (right rotator cuff tendinitis); and right-hander Vicente Padilla (right triceps tendinitis).

### Surgery possible for Spivey

MILWAUKEE — Milwaukee Brewers second baseman Junior Spivey might need season-ending surgery on his left shoulder, which he injured sliding headfirst into first base July 2.

The Brewers said Tuesday night that Spivey will fly to Los Angeles on Thursday to see prominent orthopedic surgeon Dr. Lewis Yocum.

### Spencer faces DUI charge

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — New York Mets outfielder Shane Spencer was charged with driving under the influence early Tuesday morning after he was pulled over by the Florida Highway Patrol.

Spencer, who was stopped for driving 96 mph in a 70 mph zone, failed several roadside sobriety tests and was arrested, police said. He refused to take a breathalyzer test and was charged with misdemeanor DUI.

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Anaheim Angels put left-hander Jarrod Washburn on the 15-day disabled list Tuesday and purchased outfielder Curtis Pride's contract from Triple-A Salt Lake.

Washburn, who leads the team with 10 wins, has an inflamed ligament in his left ribcage. He is 10-5 with a 4.38 ERA in 19 starts this year, with one shutout.

Washburn, 29, was placed on the DL retroactive to July 21.

"It just hasn't progressed at all," said Washburn, who became the 13th Angels player to go on the DL this season. "The discom-

fort's still there, so they wanted me to go on the DL instead of taking a chance of making it worse and having it bother me the rest of the year."

"It's not excruciating pain, but it's an uncomfortable feeling. They made me be honest with them and tell them if there was any discomfort, so I was honest this time."

Washburn first felt the problem during his previous start. He had X-rays and a CT scan on Mon-



Washburn

day, both of which were normal, and underwent a bone scan on Tuesday. He is eligible to be activated on Aug. 5.

"Right now we're very comfortable that he'll be able to get out there once his stint on the DL is up," manager Mike Scioscia said.

"But we'll evaluate it and make sure that he's at a level where he's not going out there at any risk, and that he's throwing the ball the way he needs to in order to be successful."

Pride, 35, hit .431 with two homers and 10 RBIs in 19 games at Salt Lake. He started this season with the Nashua Pride of the independent Atlantic League, batting

.446 with a home run and 12 RBIs in 17 games. The Angels signed him to a minor league contract on May 28.

Pride, who is almost totally deaf, has played in the major leagues for Montreal, Detroit, Boston, Atlanta and the New York Yankees. He has a .253 batting average with 19 home runs and 77 RBIs while appearing in 353 games.

"I was very confident I'd be back in the big leagues. All I had to do was put up some numbers in the minors," Pride said. "I've never doubted my ability to play at this level, otherwise I wouldn't still be playing baseball."



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# Williams sisters struggle

## Venus withdraws; Serena wins despite painful blister

The Associated Press

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Top-seeded Serena Williams overcame a blister on her left foot and an unexpected challenge from Jelena Jankovic, but won her second-round match Tuesday in the Acura Classic.

While Serena took more than two hours to beat her unseeded opponent, older sister Venus had even bigger problems and withdrew from her first-round match against Gisela Dulko with a sprained right wrist. Venus sustained the injury last week and was forced to withdraw during the semifinals of the WTA tournament in Carson, Calif.

"The good news is I'm doing better," Venus told the stadium crowd once the P.A. system moments before her scheduled

### Sports briefs

match. "The bad news is I couldn't get better enough to play today."

Serena's problem became noticeable during the fifth game of the third set of her 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-2 victory. She pulled up lame with her left foot after chasing down a ball.

"That one game I just felt it," Serena said of the blister that developed during practice Monday. "I had a lot of pain in my left foot."

Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova used a solid service game to overpower qualifier Lilia Osterloh 6-3, 6-3. It was Sharapova's first match since her surprisingly easy victory over Serena at Wimbledon on July 3 for her first Grand Slam title.

Serena, who played gingerly on her left foot in winning the final three games, said she would be ready for her match on Thursday against the winner of Wednesday's match between Eleni Daniilidou and Elena Bovina.

### Rain postpones play in Masters Canada

TORONTO — They played 35 minutes of tennis Tuesday in the \$2.5 Masters Canada tournament and rain was the winner.

Following a nine-hour delay, top-seeded Roger Federer breezed through the opening set against Hicham Arazi 6-3. But more rain fell and play was stopped.

### Thousands watch Tyson workout

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Despite physical troubles, heavyweight Mike Tyson showed Tuesday he is still one of the biggest draws in boxing.



Tyson showed Tuesday he is still one of the biggest draws in boxing.

A few thousand fans packed downtown's Fourth Street Live en-

tertainment district to see the former heavyweight champion work out for his Friday night fight against Danny Williams (31-3, 26 KOs).

Tyson (50-4, 44 KOs), who has not fought in 17 months, is trying to earn another shot to win the heavyweight crown. He is still probably the No. 2 attraction in the sport, behind Oscar De La Hoya, trainer Freddie Roach said.

### Maryland basketball player charged with disorderly conduct

PORTLAND, Maine — A former Mr. Maine Basketball who plays for Maryland has been free on bail following his arrest last weekend on a disorderly conduct charge arising from a disturbance in Portland's Old Port district.

According to a police report, Nik Caner-Medley, 20, was arrested Friday night after a confrontation involving a group of people.

"Caner-Medley was there, yelling," said Lt. Vern Malloch, reading from the report. "He took his shirt off and threatened to assault [the complainant]. [Caner-Medley's] friends were trying to restrain him. He was intoxicated and made a statement, 'I'm from Maryland, and nobody can beat me.'"

"Several other people stopped and said [Caner-Medley] was out of control, but none of those people wanted to give statements."

Caner-Medley will not face underage drinking charges because he cannot be placed in a bar and did not admit to drinking, police said.

Maryland coach Gary Williams had no official comment on the arrest, according to Mark Fratto, an assistant media relations director at Maryland.

### Lindros wants to sign with a contender

BARRIE, Ontario — Eric Lindros wasn't surprised the New York Rangers didn't pick up the option on his contract, and signing with a Stanley Cup contender is his top priority.

Last month, the Rangers declined to pick up the option on Lindros' \$10.25 million contract, making the 31-year-old center an unrestricted free agent for the first time in his 13-year NHL career. "At \$10 or \$11 million, there was no way in the world they were going to pick it up. I wouldn't pick up my own option," Lindros said Monday at a charity golf tournament. "That being said, I've talked with a few teams, but I don't think there's any rush."

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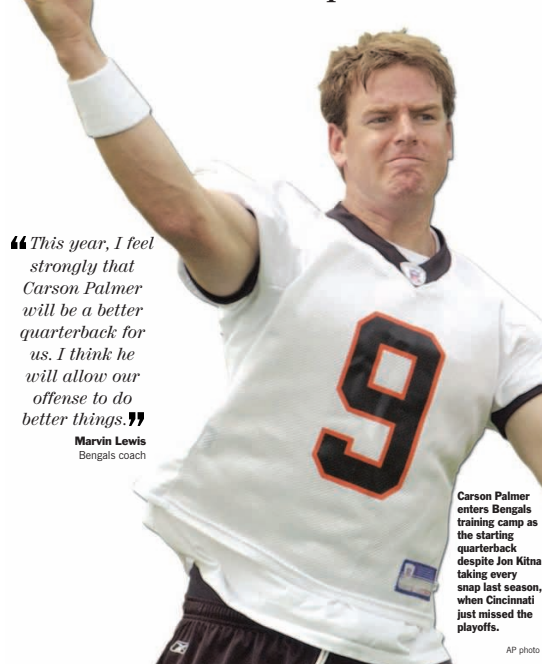
## SPORTS



Okafor, Duncan ailments show  
U.S. men's team lacks depth  
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# Time to earn his stripes

## Up-and-coming Bengals expect QB Palmer to keep team on the rise despite inexperience



*"This year, I feel strongly that Carson Palmer will be a better quarterback for us. I think he will allow our offense to do better things."*

**Marvin Lewis**  
Bengals coach

BY JOE KAY

The Associated Press

**I**N the past month alone, Carson Palmer has been on the cover of two national magazines and was featured in one of those made-for-TV quarterback competitions.

Not bad for a guy who has yet to throw a pass in the NFL. Starting this week, the former Heisman Trophy winner from USC gets to enter the fray.

He will open training camp as the Cincinnati Bengals' starting quarterback, vested with the franchise's future.

"I just can't wait," Palmer said. How he fares will be one of the main topics of training camps, which started opening on Tuesday. All 32 teams will be in camp by Sunday.

Carson Palmer enters Bengals training camp as the starting quarterback despite Jon Kitna taking every snap last season, when Cincinnati just missed the playoffs.

AP photo

There are a lot of intriguing questions around the league: Can moody running back Corey Dillon fit in with the Patriots and bring them another Super Bowl? How will Eddie George fare in Dallas? What will the Dolphins do now that Ricky Williams is seeking happiness somewhere else? Put Palmer near the top of the discussion list.

The Bengals morphed into the NFL's up-and-coming team last season, Marvin Lewis' first as

head coach. A lot of it could be traced to Jon Kitna, who won the NFL Comeback Player of the Year award with numbers comparable to what Tom Brady put up in New England.

Meanwhile, Palmer tried to learn by watching.

"You never quit learning," offensive coordinator Bob Bratkowski said Tuesday. "One year is probably not enough, but it's at that point now where he's going to learn by doing it."

Starting Friday, the Bengals will see if their grand experiment blows up in their faces.

Lewis made up his mind in February that it made no sense to let Palmer sit for another season. He has a much stronger arm and is getting paid a lot more than Kitna — \$14 million in bonuses alone as part of a seven-year deal.

As long as Palmer is on the bench, the arm and the money are wasted.

"Last year, people questioned why Jon Kitna should be the starting quarterback, and he proved he was up to the task," Lewis said Tuesday. "He had a good season — not a great season — kind of like our football team."

"This year, I feel strongly that Carson Palmer will be a better quarterback for us. I think he will allow our offense to do better things."

The Bengals went 8-8 and stayed in contention until the final week of the season behind Kitna, who threw for 3,591 yards and 26 touchdowns in a breakthrough year.

There's a much tougher schedule this year and a major uncertainty at the most important position. No one knows how much the one season on the sideline actually helped Palmer, who expects his share of rookie mistakes.

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